

May Weed of the Month

Scentless Chamomile (not the tea making type, sorry!)

Tripleurospermum perforatum

FACT

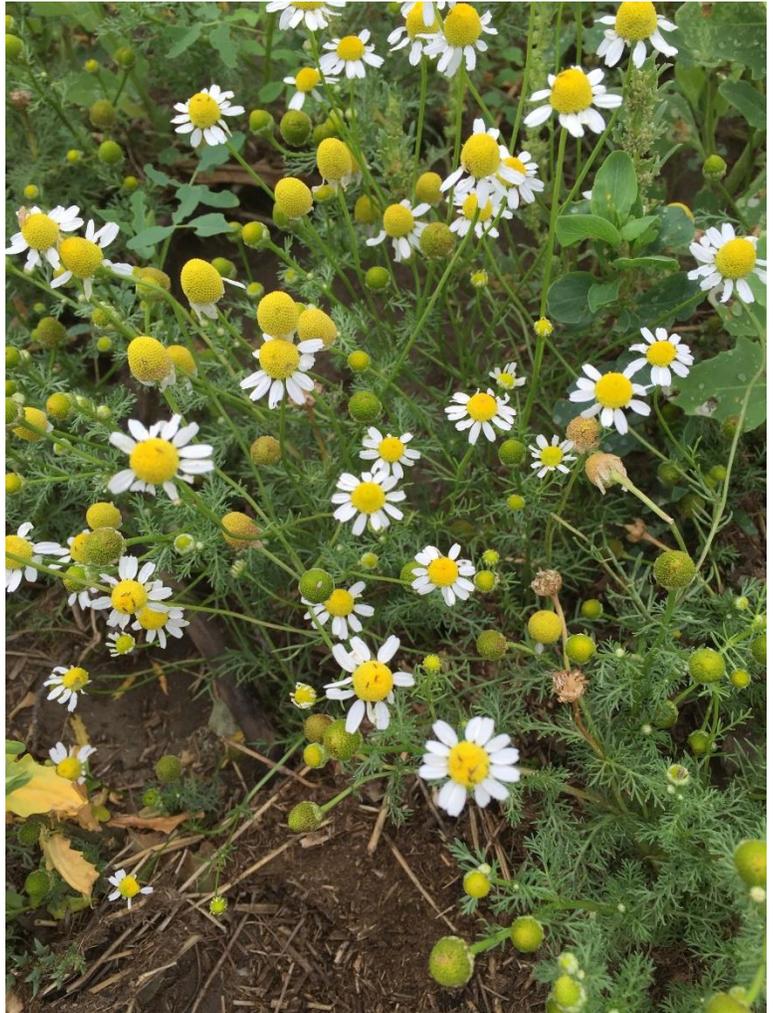
A single robust scentless chamomile plant can occupy one full SQUARE METER and produce up to ONE MILLION seeds.

Provincial Designation: NOXIOUS- must be controlled in Alberta

Reproduction: By seed only, however it can act as an annual, biennial or perennial. Seeds easily float away on water and are widely dispersed this way.

Environment: Prefers heavy clay soils, tolerating both periodic flooding and dry sites. Scentless chamomile is a poor competitor in healthy plant communities but establishes very quickly on disturbed sites. This weed is a particular issue in the **Spondin** and **Scapa areas** of Special Areas 2, as well as any low lying areas with higher water tables.

Often confused with: Oxeye Daisy (Also noxious, but not very common in the Special Areas), Stinking Pineapple weed or Pineapple weed (you'll be able to smell these ones! Remember, scentless chamomile has no smell!)





Identification

Stems: Erect to semi-erect, highly branched, may be reddish in color and can grow up to 1 meter tall. There can be a few to many stems per plant.

Leaves: Alternate and very finely divided into short segments (carrot-like) and do NOT have a smell when crushed. Basal leaves disappear at flowering time.

Flowers: Composed of a yellow central disk surrounded by white petals. The flowers are borne singly at the end of stems and have numerous bracts, arranged in overlapping rows

Seeds: Tiny (about 2mm), ribbed and dark brown. Seeds develop and become viable quickly.



Control

Mechanical: Much of the Scentless Chamomile in the Special Areas is **handpicked** for control. This is very effective on small infestations. Pulled plants should be **BAGGED** and **BURNED** or sent to the landfill in Youngstown for deep burial (let the technician know). For larger areas, mowing can prevent seed production but the plants will re-bloom below the cutting height.

Chemical: There are many products available that work very well on this weed. **Your Ag Fieldman can suggest the best herbicide for your infestation location (in-crop, pasture, roadside, etc).** Common chemicals used include: Aminopyralid (*Restore II* or *Reclaim*), Chlorsulfuron, Clopyralid (alone or as a mix with MCPA), Dicamba, Glufosinate ammonium, Hexazinone, Picloram (*Grazon*), MCPA (in a mix with Bromoxynil), Metsulfuron-methyl and Trifluralin-methyl (in a product mix with Thifensulfuron-methyl). Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the PMRA.

Biological: A seed-head feeding weevil, *Omphalapion hookeri*, and a gall midge, *Rhopalomyia tripleruospermi*, have been released in Alberta.

Cultivation: Late fall and early spring tillage will control rosettes. Frequent, shallow tillage can help exhaust the feed bank by repeatedly destroying germinating seedlings. Equipment MUST be cleaned after.

Grazing: Scentless chamomile is not typically palatable to grazers and its seeds CAN SURVIVE digestion.

SPOTTED THIS WEED? Give your local Ag Fieldman a call!

Special Areas 2: Jesse Williams (403) 854-1114 (or send a text!)

Special Areas 3: Don Hogan (403) 664-3006

Special Areas 4: Justine Simpson (403) 577-3523