

Horseweed (marestail)

Conyza canadensis L Cronq.

SunflowerFamily

Key identifying traits

- ❑ An upright winter or summer annual with inconspicuous, small, white flowers
- ❑ Flowers from June to September
- ❑ Grows anywhere from 1 to 5 feet tall
- ❑ The leaves are alternate and narrowly lance-shape
- ❑ Grows on one erect stalk, only the upper part branching

Biology and ecology

- An annual plant, reproducing by seed only
- It tends to germinate along roadsides in late spring and continues until frost; a native of the U.S.
- Found in range land, pastures, gardens, waste areas, and disturbed sites
- Horseweed contains oils that may cause skin and mucosal irritation in humans and animals, especially horses

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property, plant a cover crop or pasture mix on disturbed ground

Biological - No known biological agents yet

Cultural - Good vegetative cover helps greatly-not a highly invasive plant but will take advantage of disturbed or open areas

Mechanical - Cutting, tilling, or mowing is very helpful as a tool to prevent spread if done before flowering

Chemical - Several effective at label rates



Where found – Found scattered throughout Stevens County, heaviest concentrations are along the road shoulders and in overgrazed pastures