

Scentless mayweed

Matricaria perforata

Asteraceae Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flowers are a small daisy-like flower with white petals and a raised yellow/orange center
- ❑ Leaves are alternate, very finely dissected looking almost fernlike
- ❑ Unlike Mayweed chamomile it has no odor
- ❑ Seeds are dark brown about 2mm long and have 3 broad ribs on one side
- ❑ Plants can reach a height of 3 feet

Biology and ecology

- It can be an annual to a short lived perennial, reproducing only by seed
- It is a native of Europe
- Flowers from June through October
- Can produce anywhere from 10,000 to 200,000 seeds per plant
- It is unpalatable to livestock
- It grows on road sides, in waste areas and perennial forage crops, thriving in low-lying areas that are poorly drained and only periodically cultivated
- Often confused with 3 other plants: Mayweed chamomile (dog fennel), Oxeye daisy, and Pineappleweed, all of which are aromatic

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property

Biological - No known biocontrols in the U.S. but Canada has released 3 different agents

Cultural - Good vegetative cover helps but does not prevent establishment or spread

Mechanical - Cutting before it flowers will help prevent seed production

Chemical - Several effective at label rates but should be treated pre-bud to avoid seed production; may require repeat treatments to kill root systems

Where found – Found in many locations throughout Stevens County, especially around barns, in overgrazed pasture areas, abandoned cropland.



Photo L. D. Kemmet.

