

Wednesday
August 20th,
2025

Weed Wednesday

Foothills County

Issue #6



Scentless Chamomile – Tripeurospermum perforatum

Designation- Noxious

Scentless chamomile was thought to be brought over from Europe as an ornamental plant that escaped the garden and/or crop containment. It can grow as an annual, biennial and sometimes perennial. It blooms continuously and produces seed throughout the growing season. It is commonly found in disturbed areas but still can invade healthy plant communities. This well adapted plant will tolerate heavy clay and periodic flooding and drought.

Scentless chamomile plants are highly branched and can grow up to 1 m tall. The stems may have a reddish tinge with few to many stems per plant. Its very finely divided leaves alternate and are odorless when crushed.



Scentless chamomile smells like plant matter when crushed.



Large scentless chamomile plants can occupy one full square meter and produce up to a million seeds.

The flowers of scentless chamomile have white petals surrounding a yellow central disk, forming singly at the end of stems. The flowers are very similar to oxeye daisy, but the leaves are distinctly different. Both plants are classified as noxious weeds.

A key factor in controlling scentless chamomile is preventing seed production. Always clean your equipment thoroughly to avoid transporting weed seeds into other uncontaminated fields. Frequent shallow cultivation can destroy the seedling and help exhaust the seed bank. Late fall and early spring tillage is effective for controlling the rosettes. Hand pulling these weeds can help prevent the spread and will be effective in controlling small infestations. Make sure to burn the weeds or drop them off at the land fill.

Several herbicides are registered for use on scentless chamomile. Aminopyralid by itself or in tank mix with either Metsulfuron-methyl or 2,4-D, Chlorsulfuron, Clopyralid, Dicamba, Glufosinate ammonium, Hexazinone, Picloram and MCPA are registered for use on scentless chamomile. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant and don't hesitate to reach out to agricultural services for more information.

Scentless chamomiles are also known as mayweed and false chamomile. It can be confused with pineapple weed but pineapple weed produces a sweet smell when the stems are crushed, whereas scentless chamomile has a neutral, plant-like smell. If you would like more information, please contact Kathleen at Kathleen.mchugh@foothillscountyab.ca or at 403-603-5409.