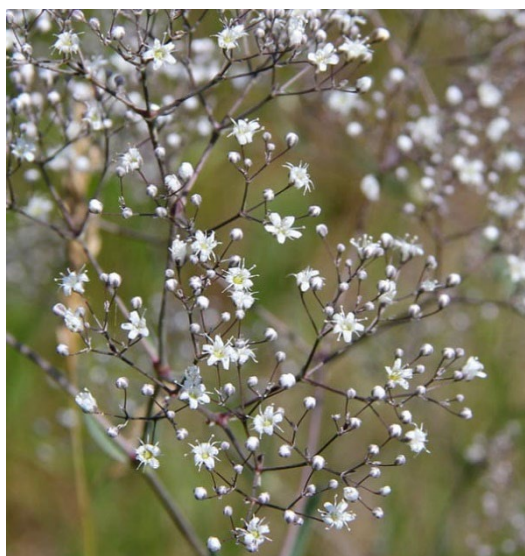


Wednesday
September
17th, 2025

Weed Wednesday

Foothills County

Issue #10



Baby's Breath – Gypsophila paniculata

Designation- Noxious

Originally introduced for Eastern Europe and Western Asia; Baby's Breath is a perennial that only reproduces by seed. It likes fine to coarse soils, full sun and once established it is drought tolerant. The flowers are extensively used in the flower industry as bouquet fillers and sold in dried flower arrangements.

Baby's Breath has an erect, single to multiple stems, that are bluish-green. It can grow between 0.4m to 1m tall and they are highly branched at the crown.



Baby's breath's leaves grow opposite at the nodes of the stem.



A single plant can produce 1000's of seeds.

The leaves grow opposite the nodes and are lance shaped. They can be smooth or slightly hairy.

It has numerous flowers that are primarily white; rarely pink. Baby's Breath has 5 petals and has highly branched flower clusters. Its impressive tap root can reach 4m long allowing it to tolerate periods of drought.

Do not plant Baby's Breath and make sure you are checking your wildflower mixes for listed species. If you find any fresh or dried flower arrangements make sure to dispose of them in the landfill.

Extensive cultivation can be an effective method of control. Shallow tilling can be tolerated by the plant. Mowing will prevent seed production, but the plants will re-sprout. It has a deep tap root that must be severed below the root crown for effective control.

There are other species of *Gypsophila* available. Showy Baby's breath (*Gypsophila elegans*) is an annual that is used in floristry industry but has shown to be invasive in parts of the USA. Alternatives to Baby's Breath include wax flowers, rice flowers and statice.

If you would like more information, please contact Kathleen at Kathleen.mchugh@foothillscountyab.ca or at 403-603-5409.

References- [N FS-Babys-Breath.pdf](#)