

PARTHENIUM WEED



- spreads rapidly
- affects human and animal health
- is difficult and expensive to control
- harbours plant disease
- reduces land values



Keep New South Wales Parthenium FREE



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Parthenium can dominate agricultural land if allowed to spread

The cost

In Central Queensland parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) infests 18 million hectares; it is continuing its southern spread. Parthenium weed is costing Queensland \$20 million annually in lost production and the cost of control.

Introduction into NSW

Parthenium weed seeds can be easily spread in contaminated agricultural produce, livestock, machinery and vehicles.

In NSW it is a requirement under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* that all grain harvesting machinery be clean before entering the State from Queensland.

Noxious Weed

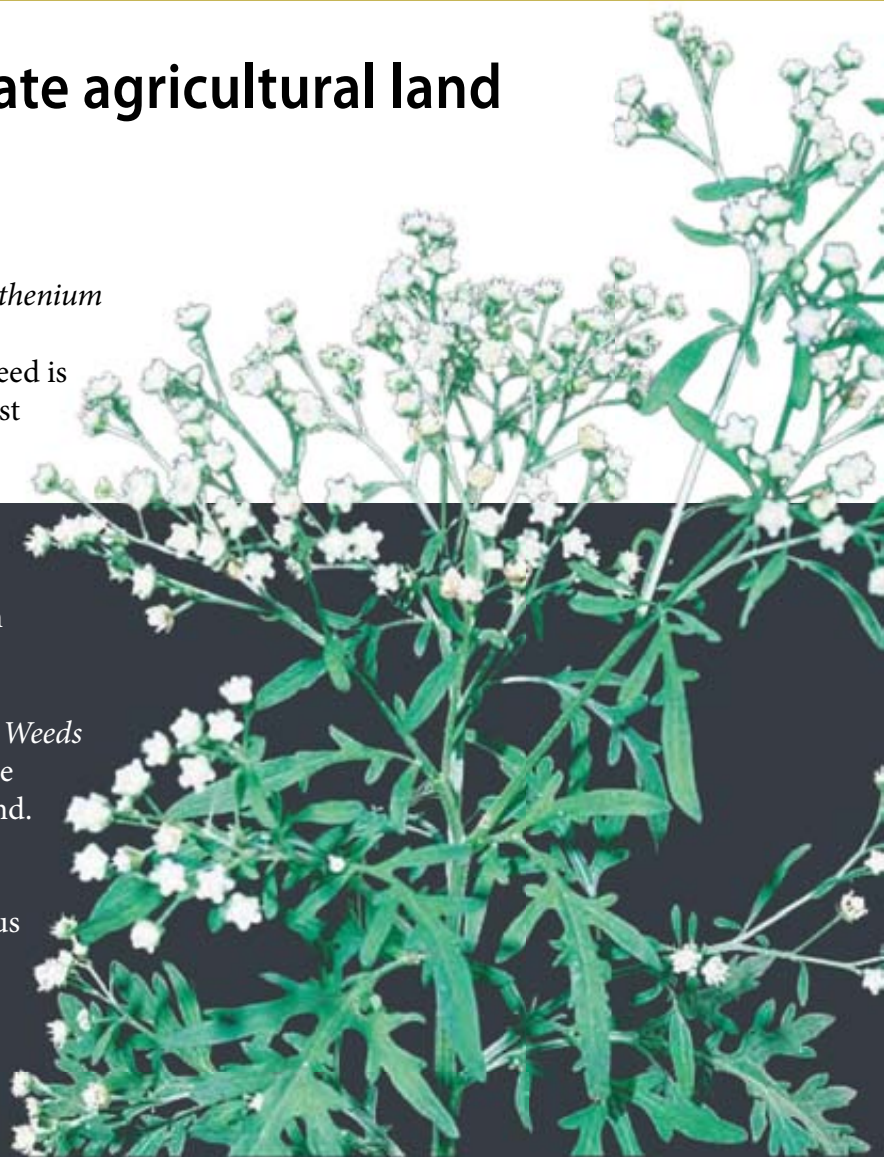
Parthenium weed is a Class 1 (notifiable) noxious weed in all areas of NSW under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

The presence of the weed must be reported within three days to the council responsible for noxious weeds in the area.

Warning

A single plant can produce 15 000 seeds. Do not handle suspect plants as this can spread seeds and cause skin irritation. Report to your local council immediately.

For further information see Primefact 707, Parthenium weed, or contact NSW DPI or your local council Weeds Inspector.



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Have you seen this weed?

Parthenium weed has an erect main stem which becomes woody with age. The upper half of the stem becomes much-branched and bears creamy white terminal flowers. The deeply lobed leaves which branch alternately on the stems, are pale green and covered with soft, fine hair.

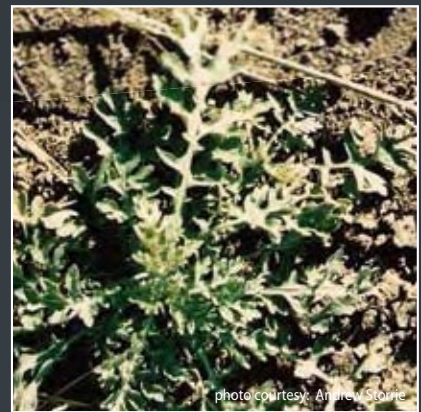
Parthenium flowers are on terminal branches and the plant continues to produce flowers on new shoots until the plant dies.



Parthenium seedlings have a rosette of deeply divided or lobed leaves.



Flowers are a composite of male and female florets forming five distinct lobes.



This mature parthenium rosette is about to produce the central flower stem.



Parthenium leaves are deeply lobed, pale green and covered in soft fine hair. Veins are recessed and prominent and stems grooved or ridged.



Parthenium weed competes strongly with crops and has an allelopathic effect preventing germination of the other species nearby by toxins which leach from seed and plant litter.



The parthenium plant continuously flowers and sheds seed as it grows and matures.

The NSW Parthenium Weed Taskforce

Noxious
Weeds
Advisory
Committee



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Look-a-likes



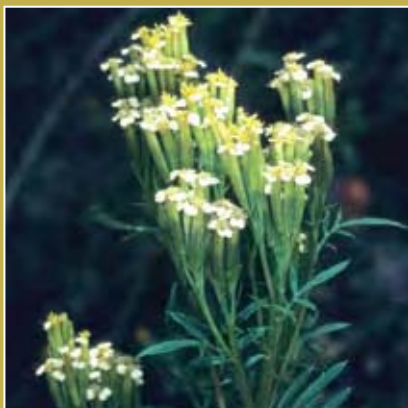
Bishop's Weed (*Ammi majus*)

Groups of white terminal flowers held at the same level by short stems are similar to parthenium weed, but all flower branches radiate from a single point.



Cobbler's Pegs (pitchforks) (*Bidens subalternans*)

The seedling (above right) may be easily mistaken for parthenium. The flowering part (above left) is distinguished by single yellow flowers surrounded by slender green bracts. Long black or brown seeds are exposed when ripe. They cling to clothing and animals' fur by barbs.



Stinking Roger (*Tagetes minuta*)

Stinking Roger is a more compact plant and has a pungent odour when crushed. Flowers are more yellow than those of parthenium weed. It is easy to confuse the two plants in the seedling to pre-flowering stage.



Annual Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*)

Ambrosia leaf is more finely divided than parthenium weed. The stems are reddish in colour and not grooved. The plant (above right) is easily distinguished from parthenium weed when the spear-like flower appears.



Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Groups of white terminal flowers held in an umbel shape.



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