

How to Identify Perennial Pepperweed from May Through Late Fall



NEW HAMPSHIRE
COASTAL PROGRAM



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Pepperweed begins as a rosette low to the ground. It begins growing in May. At this juvenile stage, its serrated leaves are about 6" long and 2" wide.



While both a rosette and mature plant, pepperweed has waxy, lance-shaped leaves with dominant white veins.



Pepperweed creates dense, single species stands that outcompete other native plants.

Right-hand photo:
Jennifer Forman



Pepperweed has a smooth fleshy stem. At the mature stage, its leaves can have either smooth or finely serrated edges.



Pepperweed's leaves are alternate; one leaf grows from each point along the stem, alternating the side of the stem it grows from.



Pepperweed flowers in July, producing small white flowers in dense clusters.



Each pepperweed flower has four spoon-shaped petals.

Photo: Jennifer Forman



The mature plant can reach up to four feet in height.



Pepperweed has an extensive root system, which helps it spread rapidly.



After pepperweed goes to seed in late July and early August, its flowers brown and wither.



In the fall, brown blotches appear on the stems.



Through the fall, pepperweed appears in dense stands of three to four foot tall plants with dry, brittle clusters at the end of dry stalks.

If you have looked through this presentation and you are convinced you have correctly identified Pepperweed please contact:

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