

Who Am I? – Name the Pest of the Week: Scentless Chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*)

Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*) is native to Europe, but common across Canada today. Scentless chamomile is often referred to as mayweed, scentless mayweed, barnyard daisy, wild or false chamomile, or bachelor's buttons.



Photo Courtesy of Saskatchewan Agriculture

Figure 1. Emerging seedling in early spring

Biology: Scentless chamomile is a short-lived perennial or annual that reproduces by seed. Seedlings can be identified by the broad oblong cotyledons. The true leaves are hairless, alternate, and finely divided similar to a fern and the stems are branched. A mature plant can be erect to semi-erect, up to one meter in height, and can occupy a square meter due to its branching. Plants are early to flower and continue to flower all year long. Due to this nonstop flowering, one plant can produce as many as one million seeds per growing season. A single flower is produced on an individual stem. The seeds do not require a dormancy period and can immediately germinate to form new seedlings.

Herbicide Resistance: Scentless chamomile is resistant to ALS inhibitors in Sweden, the UK, Poland, Norway, Germany, and France. Currently, the species is tolerant to Group 4 phenoxy herbicides in Canada.

Keys for Identification: Scentless chamomile has finely divided leaves and multi-branched stems. The plant is odorless. Flowers have yellow centers surrounded by white petals.

Similar Weeds: There are a number of related species difficult to distinguish from scentless chamomile including:

- Pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*) - an annual with cone-shaped yellow and white flowers and a distinct odor.
- Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) - a perennial with club-shaped leaves, slightly lobed, and larger than scentless chamomile.
- Annual fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*) - an annual with large elliptical leaves, soft hairs on stems and a small daisy-like flower.



Figure 2. Vegetative plant in mid May



Figure 3. Distinct flower resembles a daisy

Weed Act Status: It is a noxious weed in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

