

# Scentless chamomile

Colorado Dept. of  
Agriculture  
Conservation Services  
Division  
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## Key ID Points

1. Flowers have a yellow centered disk surrounded by white petals.
2. Leaves are alternate, finely divided, and odorless when crushed.

## Scentless chamomile Identification and Management



### Identification and Impacts

Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*) is an annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial forb that is native to Europe. Seedlings emerge in spring and can produce a dense mat, out competing other species. Seeds and flowers are continually being formed. Each flower head can produce 300 seeds and a single plant can produce 300,000 seeds. The flowers are white in color,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches and are daisy like flowers that are solitary on each stem. Flowers have a yellow central disk surrounded by white petals. Leaves are alternate, fernlike, finely divided, and odorless when crushed. The stems can reach 6 inches to 3 feet tall and have numerous branches.

Habitats for Scentless chamomile include: hayfields, pastures, roadsides, streambanks, fencelines, and moist areas such as drainages. There are limited control options in an agricultural setting because more spray is needed that can be used with crops. In addition, blistering on livestock muzzles and irritation to mucous membranes are another agricultural concern.

The key to effective control of Scentless chamomile is prevention and preventing seed production. A combination of tillage, herbicide and competitive cropping can be very effective in managing Scentless chamomile. The goal is to prevent seed production and crowd out infestations through crop or natural species competition. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Scentless chamomile is designated as a "List B" species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/csd](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/csd) and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



Photos © Kelly Uhing, Colorado Department of Agriculture.

*Matricaria perforata*

**CULTURAL**

Any practice that aids in the establishment of the forage, such as seeding good forage seed shallowly into a firm, moist seedbed, will help in reducing Scentless chamomile growth. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service for seed mix recommendations. Bareground is prime habitat for weed invasions, so maintain healthy pastures and prevent bare spots caused by overgrazing.

**BIOLOGICAL**

There is no biological control available for Scentless chamomile. Since biological control agents take years to research, develop and release, no releases are expected in the foreseeable future. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

**MECHANICAL**

Frequent, shallow tillage can help exhaust the seed bank in non-native areas. Mowing is not an effective long-term control method due to the fact the plant will prostrate, in the short-term mowing will assist with limiting seed production. Hand pulling can prevent spread into new areas and is effective on small infestations.

*Integrated Weed Management:*

*A combination of tillage, herbicide and competitive cropping can be very effective in managing Scentless chamomile. The goal is to prevent seed production and crowd out infestations through crop competition.*

**HERBICIDES**

**NOTE:** The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. *Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gallons per acre. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!*

| HERBICIDE                | RATE  | APPLICATION TIMING   |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Metsulfuron (Escort XP)  | 0.33 oz product/ac + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant | Apply when plant is in rosette to bolting growth stage. (Spring to Early Summer) |
| Chlorsulfuron (Telar)    | 0.33 oz product/ac + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant | Apply when plant is in rosette or bolting growth stage. (Spring to Early Summer) |
| Aminopyralid (Milestone) | 7 fl oz/ac + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant         | Apply when plant is in rosette growth stage. (Spring to Early Summer)            |

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