

pineappleweed

Matricaria discoidea DC.

Synonyms: *Artemisia matricarioides* auct. non Less, *Chamomilla suaveolens* (Pursh) Rydb., *C. discoidea* (de Candolle) J. Gay ex A. Braun, *Lepidanthus suaveolens* (Pursh) Nutt., *Lepidotheca suaveolens* (Pursh) Nutt., *Matricaria matricarioides* (Less) Porter, *M. suaveolens* (Pursh) Buch., *Santolina suaveolens* Pursh, *Tanacetum suaveolens* Pursh Hook.

Common name: disc mayweed

Family: Asteraceae.

Invasiveness Rank: 32 The invasiveness rank is calculated based on a species' ecological impacts, biological attributes, distribution, and response to control measures. The ranks are scaled from 0 to 100, with 0 representing a plant that poses no threat to native ecosystems and 100 representing a plant that poses a major threat to native ecosystems.

Description

Pineappleweed is an annual herb that usually grows less than 15 cm tall but sometimes grows up to 30 ½ cm tall. The plant gives off a pineapple scent when crushed. Stems are low-branching and leafy. Leaves are alternate and divided several times into narrow segments. Small, yellow disc florets are arranged in cone-shaped heads that are 5 to 10 mm across. Ray florets are absent. Each head is surrounded by several overlapping bracts that have papery margins. Pineappleweed blooms from early spring to late autumn (Royer and Dickinson 1999, Whitson et al. 2000).



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Matricaria discoidea DC.

Similar species: There are no other diminutive, rayless composite species that can be confused with pineappleweed in Alaska.

Ecological Impact

Impact on community composition, structure, and interactions: Pineappleweed has not been observed in undisturbed plant communities in National Parks in Alaska (Densmore et al. 2001). It has been reported as an alternate host for raspberry Scottish leaf curl virus (Royer and Dickinson 1999).

Impact on ecosystem processes: The impacts of pineappleweed on ecosystem processes have not been documented.

Biology and Invasive Potential

Reproductive potential: Pineappleweed reproduces by seeds only.

Role of disturbance in establishment: Plants may appear when an area is disturbed by construction or trampling (Densmore et al. 2001).

Potential for long-distance dispersal: Seeds are gelatinous when wet and can stick to the feet or fur of animals. Seeds can be dispersed by water (Rutledge and McLendon 1996).

Potential to be spread by human activity: Seeds can be transported in mud attached to motor vehicles, and they can contaminate topsoil (Baker 1974, Hodkinson and Thompson 1997).

Germination requirements: Pineappleweed requires open soil and disturbance to germinate (Densmore et al. 2001).

Growth requirements: Unknown.

Congeneric weeds: Crown mayweed (*Matricaria courrantiana*) and German chamomile (*M. recutita*) are known to occur as non-native species in North America but are not listed as weeds (USDA 2010).

Legal Listings

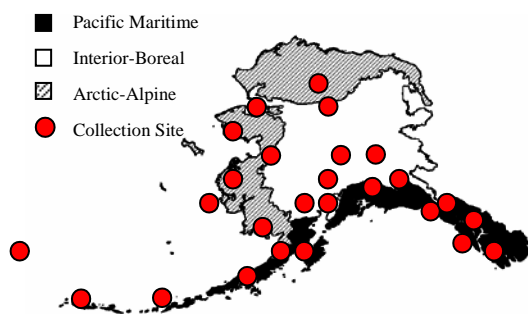
Has not been declared noxious

- Listed noxious in Alaska
- Listed noxious by other states
- Federal noxious weed
- Listed noxious in Canada or other countries

Distribution and Abundance

Pineappleweed is often found growing on compacted soils in farmyards, waste areas, and roadsides.

Native and current distribution: Pineappleweed is native to western North America. It has been introduced to Europe, Asia, Greenland, Iceland, South America, and New Zealand (Hultén 1968). This species grows throughout Canada and the United States, and it is a common weed in Alaska, Yukon Territory, and Northwest Territory (Welsh 1974).



Distribution of pineappleweed in Alaska

Management

Pineappleweed is easy to pull up, although several weedings may be necessary to remove all plants (Densmore et al 2001). This species can be controlled with herbicides, but it is resistant to a number of standard herbicides (Rutledge and McLendon 1996). No information is available on biological control methods for pineappleweed.

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