



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225
(360) 778-6234 www.whatcomcounty.us/914/Weeds

PINEAPPLE WEED

Matricaria discoidea (Matricaria matricarioides)

THREAT: Pineapple weed, also called disc mayweed, is a small annual native to the Pacific Northwest and northeast Asia. It now occurs throughout much of North America and parts of Europe. Pineapple weed prefers disturbed sites with compact soil and full sunlight, being commonly found in driveways and gravelly waste areas, and along roadsides. Pineapple weed is fairly tolerant of vehicle and foot traffic, but does not do well with heavy competition from other plants. It spreads by seeds, which, when wet, can stick to passing animals. In Great Britain, populations of pineapple weed have become resistant to some herbicides.

DESCRIPTION: Pineapple weed is a summer annual, that, when crushed, gives off a smell of pineapple. It grows 3 to 12 inches high, with multiple stems. The leaves are finely divided, and fern-like in appearance, growing up to 2 inches long. The small cone-like flowers, which grow up to 1/3 inch long, are yellowish-green and lack petals. The flowers are borne either singly or in clusters at the end of the stems. Pineapple weed flowers throughout the summer. The plant has a taproot, with small, fibrous secondary roots. Pineapple weed was used for medicinal purposes by Native Americans.



MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Pineapple weed can be controlled through mechanical and chemical means. Individual plants can be hand dug or pulled, especially when the ground is wet. Contact the weed board for site-specific chemical recommendations.