

Broad-leaved Pepper-Grass (*Lepidium latifolium*)

Description

A highly invasive creeping perennial that grows from a widely spreading root system. Stems are erect, with many branches, nearly smooth and grow up to 1.5 m tall from a woody crown. Leaves are grayish-green with a waxy coating and a prominent whitish midvein. Basal leaves are lance-shaped, entire to evenly toothed, up to 30 ½ cm long, and to 7 ½ cm wide. Rosette leaves are larger and more stalked than the alternate, upper leaves. Plants form dense clusters of flowers in pyramidal panicles. Flowers are white, very small, and approximately 1.5 mm long. Very small, hairy, reddish-brown seeds occur in small round-elongated, flattened pods (silicles) that are slightly hairy. Each fruit (silicle) contains two seeds.

Key Identifiers

- ✓ Rhizomatous
- ✓ Non clasping leaves are grayish green with a waxy coating and prominent white midvein
- ✓ Stem leaves have stalks
- ✓ Pyramidal Inflorescence of white 4 petaled flowers

Location in Canada

Broad-leaved Pepper-grass has been reported in BC, Alberta and Quebec.

Resources

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-BroadLeavedPepperGrass.pdf>

Biology of Invasive Alien Plants in Canada. 8. *Lepidium latifolium* L.

Similar species

Hoary Cress' (*Lepidium spp*) Broad-leaved Pepper-grass is distinguished by its height, pyramidal inflorescence and leaves with distinct stalks. Does not resemble any native *Lepidium spp*, differs in size and growth habit.

