

# Seen this plant? Parthenium weed

*Parthenium hysterophorus*



## How does this weed affect us?

Parthenium weed adversely affects human health and can impact on production. It can cause:

- respiratory problems
- severe dermatitis
- tainted meat (if stock eat the plant within one month of slaughter)
- tainted milk

Please call us if you think you have seen Parthenium weed and avoid the area.

If you cannot avoid the area, wear a dust mask when near the weed. Allergic reactions are not always experienced with the first contact with the plant but can develop after a number of exposures.

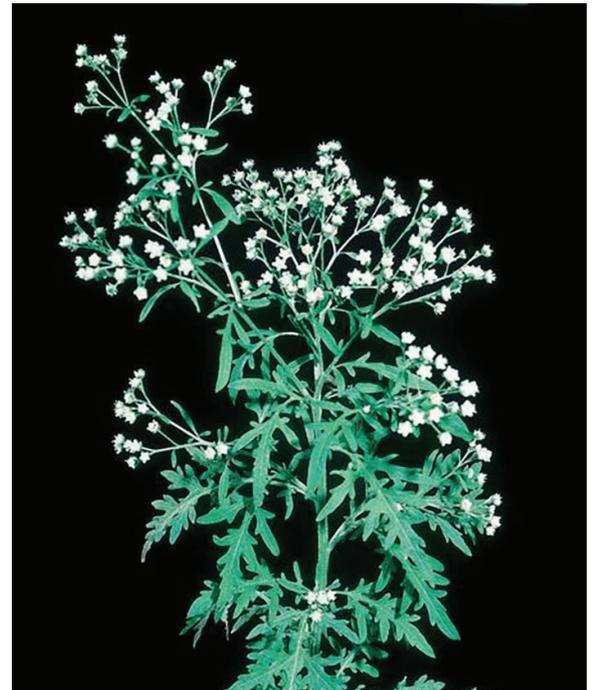
**Seen it? Call:**

**NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline 1800 680 244** or **Rous County Council 02 6623 3800**

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:  
[weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/partheniumweed](https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/partheniumweed)





## Where are we likely to find it?

Parthenium weed is common in central Queensland and is spreading into southern Queensland. Luckily, NSW is currently free from established populations of Parthenium weed.

Headers and grain harvesting machinery have previously been a source of new infestations. As a result, you could find the weed on road reserves or in your paddocks.

## What does it look like?

- Seeds are small (1–2mm across), flattened, triangular and dark brown–black with two thin, white appendages.
- The plant usually grows 1–1.5m, although it can grow to 2m high.
- Leaves are deeply lobed, pale green and covered with soft, fine hair.
- Flowers are creamy-white (4-6mm), arranged in clusters, have five small petals and occur at the tips of the stems.
- It has a long tap root.

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