



KEY  
 CHARACTERISTICS

- growth: Grows from 0.5-1 m tall and is slightly hairy. Will reproduce from rhizomes and root pieces.
- flower: Small, 4 white petals. Compact corymb appears flat-topped. They usually bloom from late April to early June. Seed sets mid-summer.
- roots: Wide spreading, thick roots penetrate deeply and grow vertically and horizontally, producing side shoots from the rootstocks.
- stems: Stems are medium thick and branch out toward the top of the plant.
- leaves: Upper leaves clasp the stem with two lobes sessile. Blue-green or gray-green in color. Serrated or jagged edges; alternate or staggered arrangement. Irregular and lance-shaped. 2.5 x 7-9 mm, with a sharp peppery taste.

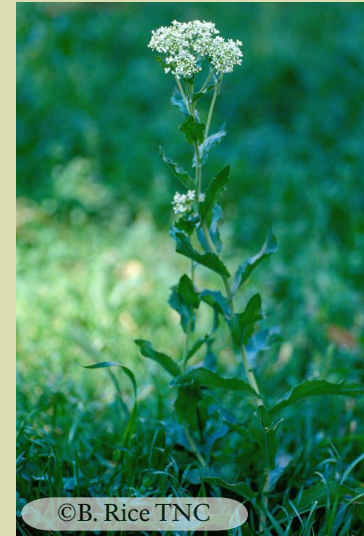


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- fruit: Fruits form in inverted heart-shaped pods. Granular, oval-shaped. 3-4mm long, 1-1.5mm wide, with 2 chambers each with two seeds; hairless, with distinct beak (persistent style) on upper end. As the fruit dries it deflates and the veins become distinct.
- seeds: Seeds reddish-brown in color.



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Rosette growth starts early in the spring. Note upper leaves clasp stem.

*flower color*

Elevation:  
4000-8000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:  
Semi-desert grasslands, SW interior riparian & montane conifer forests.

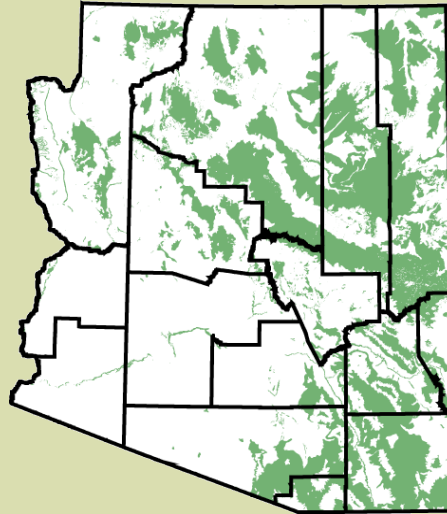
## ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Found on disturbed overgrazed and cultivated areas, pastures, roadside and waste areas. Highly competitive once established.

Occurs on a variety of soil types but is most common on neutral to alkaline soils. Is found on saline soils where there is at least a moderate supply of moisture, and is particularly abundant under irrigation. Occurs in areas where annual rainfall exceeds 16 inches.

Distinguished from *C. chalepensis* (lens-podded white-top) and *C. pubescens* (hairy white top) by differences in seed capsules (*C. draba* has 4 seeds per pod) and fruit.

## SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

## MORE KEY CHARACTERISTICS

seedling →



S. Dewey Utah  
State. forestry/images.org

Seedlings are distinguished by their hypocotyl, which is dull brown-green, but green above. Leaves rolled in bud.

Seed leaves are 2.5 x 7-9mm, pale, dull gray-green, with a sharp, pepper taste.

While young, the leaves are more or less opposite below but alternate above and obscure the stem.