

## Fleabane (marestail)

*Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronq.

**Life cycle:** Erect winter or summer annual.

**Leaves:** Cotyledons are egg- to spatula-shaped and hairless. Seedling leaves initially develop from a basal rosette; mature leaves are alternate and numerous, and crowded along an erect central stem. Leaves are hairy and linear to lance-shaped with smooth to toothed margins, gradually becoming smaller toward the top of the plant.

**Stems:** Erect, hairy central stem arises from a basal rosette, then branches to flower, reaching up to 7 feet tall. Flowering branches resemble a horse's tail.

**Flowers and fruit:**

Numerous clusters of small, white flower heads are found on many short branches near the top. Each seedhead is capable of producing thousands of small seeds; each seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, wind-disseminated fruit.



All photos this page: Steven A. Gower

*Erect, central stem of horseweed.*

**Reproduction:** Seeds.



*Horseweed rosette.*



*Horseweed flowers.*



*Horseweed seedhead.*