

## Horseweed (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



Erect, central stem of horseweed.



Horseweed rosette.

**Asteraceae (Aster family)**

## Horseweed *continued*

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.

### Reproduction

Horseweed flowers.



Horseweed seedhead.