

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)

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.

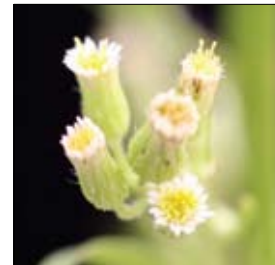
Flowers and fruit

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

Seeds.

Horseweed flowers.



Horseweed seedhead.