

# Shepherd's purse

*Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.) Medicus



## Life cycle

Erect winter or summer annual.

## Leaves

Leaves initially develop from a basal rosette. Basal leaves are stalked and highly variable in shape; young leaves are first rounded and elongated, becoming variously lobed, toothed or wavy. Smaller stem leaves are alternate with smooth to toothed margins and clasping bases.



Shepherd's purse rosette.

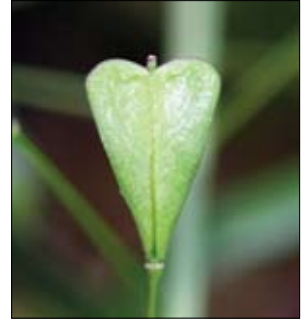
**Brassicaceae (Mustard family)**

## Stems

Erect, slender, hairy, up to 2-foot-tall stems bolt from a basal rosette to flower. Flower stems are usually unbranched with few to no leaves.

## Flowers and fruit

White flowers with four small petals are found in terminal clusters. Fruit are distinctly heart-shaped to triangular pods found on elongated, unbranched stems.



Shepherd's purse fruit.

**Reproduction**  
Seeds.



Shepherd's purse flowering cluster.