

Mayweed chamomile

Colorado Dept. of
Agriculture,
Conservation
Services Division
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Key ID Points

1. Bushy mature plants are 0.5 to 2 ft. tall.
2. Leaves have foul smell and are divided several times into narrow segments.
3. White ray flowers.

Mayweed chamomile Identification and Management



Identification and Impacts

Mayweed chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) is a bushy annual that can adapt to various conditions and is native to Europe. The seeds are 10 ribbed with small glandular bumps. Mayweed chamomile is a prolific seed producer, producing more than 960,000 seeds per plant. The seeds viability in soil range from 4 to 6 years. The leaves are finely dissected, alternate, and approximately 0.75 to 2.5 inches long and 1 inch wide. Leaves may have some short hairs and emit an unpleasant odor. Flowers are solitary and borne at the ends of branches. They are 0.75 to 1.25 inches in diameter with 12 white ray flowers and yellow disk centers. The white ray flowers are in bloom from June through September. Mature plants grow from 0.5 to 2 feet tall and are highly branched.

Contact with Mayweed chamomile can cause skin rashes, blistering of livestock muzzles and irritated mucus membranes of grazing livestock. The blistering can cause animals to reduce grazing resulting in weight loss and reduced milk production. In addition, it may impart a strong flavor to the milk of dairy animals.

Habitats for Mayweed chamomile include roadsides, ditches, in urban areas, waste places, cultivated fields, and pastures. It can grow in a wide range of soils but seems to prefer moist, poorly drained soils. Mayweed chamomile prefers moist areas and increases in abundance during years of above average precipitation.

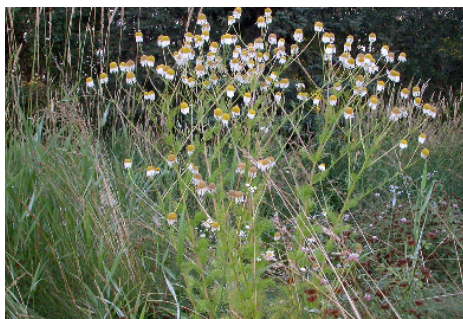
The key to effective control of Mayweed chamomile is prevention. Eliminate seed production to decrease the spread of this annual forb. Mowing is effective if done before the seed sets. Reseeding areas with perennial grasses for several years will reduce an infestation. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Mayweed chamomile is designated as a "List B" species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information visit www.colorado.gov/ag/csd and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



Photos ©

Anthemis cotula

**CULTURAL**

Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production and maintaining healthy native communities. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service for seed mix recommendations. Maintain healthy pastures and prevent bare spots caused by overgrazing.

**BIOLOGICAL**

There is no biological control for Mayweed chamomile. Since biological control agents take years to research, develop and release, no releases are expected in the foreseeable future. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

**MECHANICAL**

Frequent, shallow tillage can help exhaust the seed bank in non-native areas. Mowing is not an effective long-term control method due to the fact the plant will prostrate, in the short-term mowing will assist with limiting seed production. Hand pulling can prevent spread into new areas and is effective on small infestations.

Integrated Weed Management:

Prevent new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal. The key is to eliminate seed production to decrease the spread and continue to deplete the seed bank for 4 to 6 years. To help reduce an infestation, reseed with perennial grasses for several years.

HERBICIDES

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Please read label for exact rates. **Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!**

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Metsulfuron (Escort XP)	0.33 oz product/ac + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply when plant is in rosette to bolting growth stage. (Early Spring to Early Summer)
Chlorsulfuron (Telar)	0.33 oz product/ac + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply when plant is in rosette or bolting growth stage. (Early Spring to Early Summer)
Aminopyralid (Milestone)	7 fl oz/ac + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply when plant is in rosette growth stage. (Spring)

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