

# *Parthenium hysterophorus*

## SANTA MARIA FEVERFEW

### Asteraceae

Common Synonyms: *Parthenium pinnatifidum*, *P. lobatum*

**FLEPPC Category:**

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

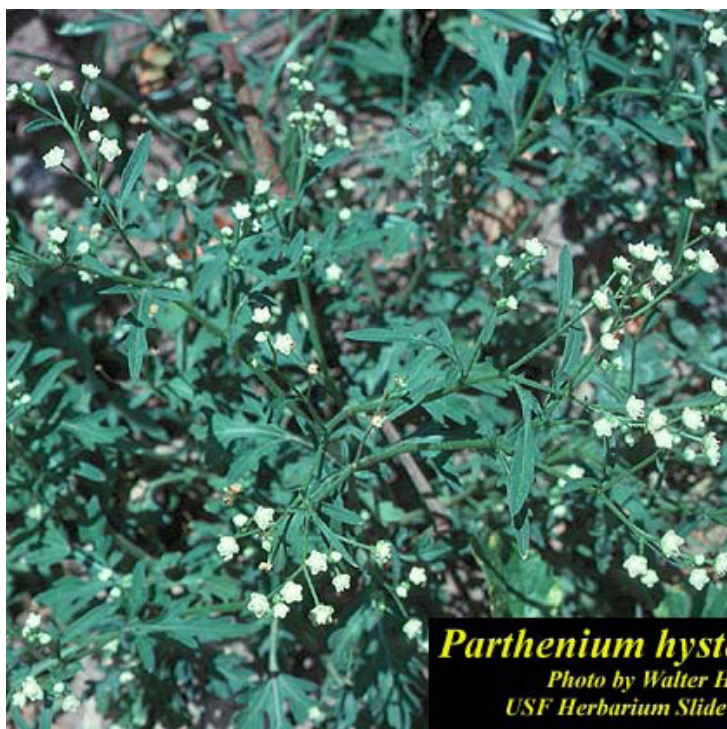
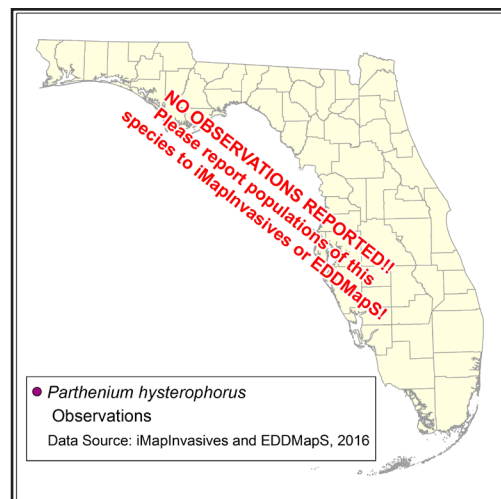
**IFAS Assessment**

North -  
Central -  
South -

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** Unknown

**Growth Habit:** - Large herb

**Origin:** Mexico, Central & South America, and the Caribbean.



**Description:** An annual, upright, herbaceous plant to 1.5m tall with green stems having distinct longitudinal grooves and covered in stiff hairs. Leaves are simple, alternate and deeply incised. Flowers are small white and comprised of numerous tubular florets. Contact with this plant can cause dermatitis, watery eyes, and swelling of nose and mouth tissue. Can be confused with *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (common ragweed) which doesn't have the grooved stems or the white flowers.

**Habitat:** Disturbed sites and agricultural fields.

**Comments:** Produces allelopathic chemicals that suppress crop and pasture plants and allergens that affect humans and livestock.

**Florida Introduction Date:** Earliest Florida herbarium specimen from 1941

**Control Methods:**

Hand-pulling is difficult due to the contact dermatitis. Studies are conflicting on the effectiveness of herbicides like glyphosate and 2,4-D.

**Useful Resources:**

[http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Parthenium\\_hysterophorus\\_\(Parthenium\\_Weed\).htm](http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Parthenium_hysterophorus_(Parthenium_Weed).htm)

Harmful and beneficial aspects of *P. hysterophorus*: an update (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3339593/>)

Tamado T, Milberg P. Control of parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) in grain sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) in the smallholder farming system in eastern Ethiopia. *Weed Technol.* 2004;18:100–105. doi: 10.1614/WT-03-033R