



**KEY
CHARACTERISTICS**

growth

Creeping perennial forb with 1 to many above ground stems, 3 to 8 ft tall.

inflorescence

Panicle, 25-27.5 cm wide and composed of many small white flowers, less than 1/8 inch wide. Borne in dense, rounded clusters at the branch tips from early summer until fall. Sepals oval, < 1 mm long, +/- covered with long simple hairs. Stamens 6, 4 long, 2 short. Stigma sessile, persistent on fruit.

leaves

Shoots form a rosette near the soil surface. Basal leaves are long-petioled, lance shaped, 10-30 cm long and 2.5-8 cm wide and covered with a waxy layer. Older stems have alternate upper leaves, 1-4 cm wide.

Lower leaves are stemmed and upper leaves are sessile. Leaf size decreases

fruit



up the stem & leaves have a prominent, whitish midvein.

2-chambered pods (silicles), about 2 mm long at maturity and slightly flattened, covered with long simple hairs. Fruits contain 1 seed per chamber, about 1mm long and 0.5 mm wide.



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Above: Inflorescence with sessile leaves & branching stems.



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Above: Common habit; note larger leaves below.

flower color

Elevation:

Sea level to approx.
10,000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:

L. latifolium is not currently widely distributed in Arizona nor does it occupy any one ecological type more than 5%.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

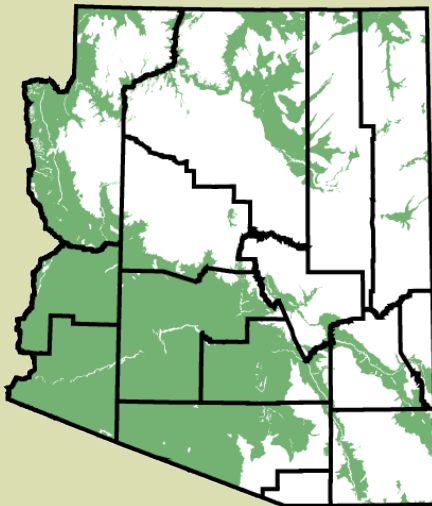
In the U.S., it occurs in a few states along the eastern seaboard, in several mid-western states, and in all far western states.

Invasive primarily in riparian areas and wetlands and may invade adjacent areas once established. Adapted to salt affected soils.

Old stems and deep litter form layers that are impenetrable to light and prevent the emergence of other plant species. May occur as spotty, scattered populations, or as large, dense, nearly monospecific stands.

The aerial portion of perennial pepperweed stems dies back to the ground in fall and winter, leaving a thick thatch of dry, semi-woody stems that may persist for several years.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

SIMILAR SPECIES

...*Cardaria draba*, *C. chalepensis* and *C. pubescens* are noxious perennials with creeping roots that resemble perennial pepperweed. *Lepidium campestre* and *L. perfoliatum* are related annual/biennials. Unlike perennial pepperweed, all of these species grow only to ~ 0.5 m tall and have stem leaves with lobed bases that clasp the stems and foliage +/- covered with short hairs. In addition, *Cardaria* species typically have inflated pods greater than 2 mm long with persistent styles 1-2 mm long. *L. campestre* and *L. perfoliatum* (Field and clasping pepperweed) do not grow in dense colonies. ...



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