

Agriculture Protection Board
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MATRICARIA



1. *P. globifera* flowers. 2. *P. suffruticosa* flowers 3. Vegetative stage.

(continued overleaf)

MATRICARIA

MATRICARIA is closely related to chrysanthemum species (*compositae*). There are two species of Matricaria in W.A. One species, *Pentzia suffruticosa*, has masses of small yellow flowers; the other *P. globifera*, has large singular flower heads. Matricaria is a serious weed of pastures in the Adelaide plains and Eyre peninsular district of South Australia. Isolated occurrences have been recorded in the north-eastern wheatbelt and the Goldfields of Western Australia. It is thought likely to have weed potential in W.A. It was formerly cultivated for its alleged medicinal properties.

Significance:

Matricaria is an unpalatable plant which is not normally grazed by stock and competes with more valuable pasture species. Stock forced to eat Matricaria give tainted milk and have tainted meat. The plant also competes with cereals.

Description:

Matricaria closely resembles the Chrysanthemum. It is a strongly scented erect plant up to 0.5 m high. The leaves are arranged alternately on the woody stems; they are sessile (have no leaf stalks). Matricaria flowers from September to November. The flowers are bright yellow, persistent and numerous.

They are arranged in tight bunches. The seeds are held in the heads for a number of months after flowering.

Ecology:

Matricaria is an annual with an erect growth habit. It appears to grow only on light sandy soil or areas of soil that have been disturbed. Seeds have a small pappus (parachute) of fine hairs to aid dispersal by wind.

It is essential that Matricaria is eradicated from W.A.

For advice on Matricaria recognition and control contact the Agriculture Protection Board, telephone (09) 367 0111 or any country officer of the Agriculture Protection Board or Department of Agriculture.