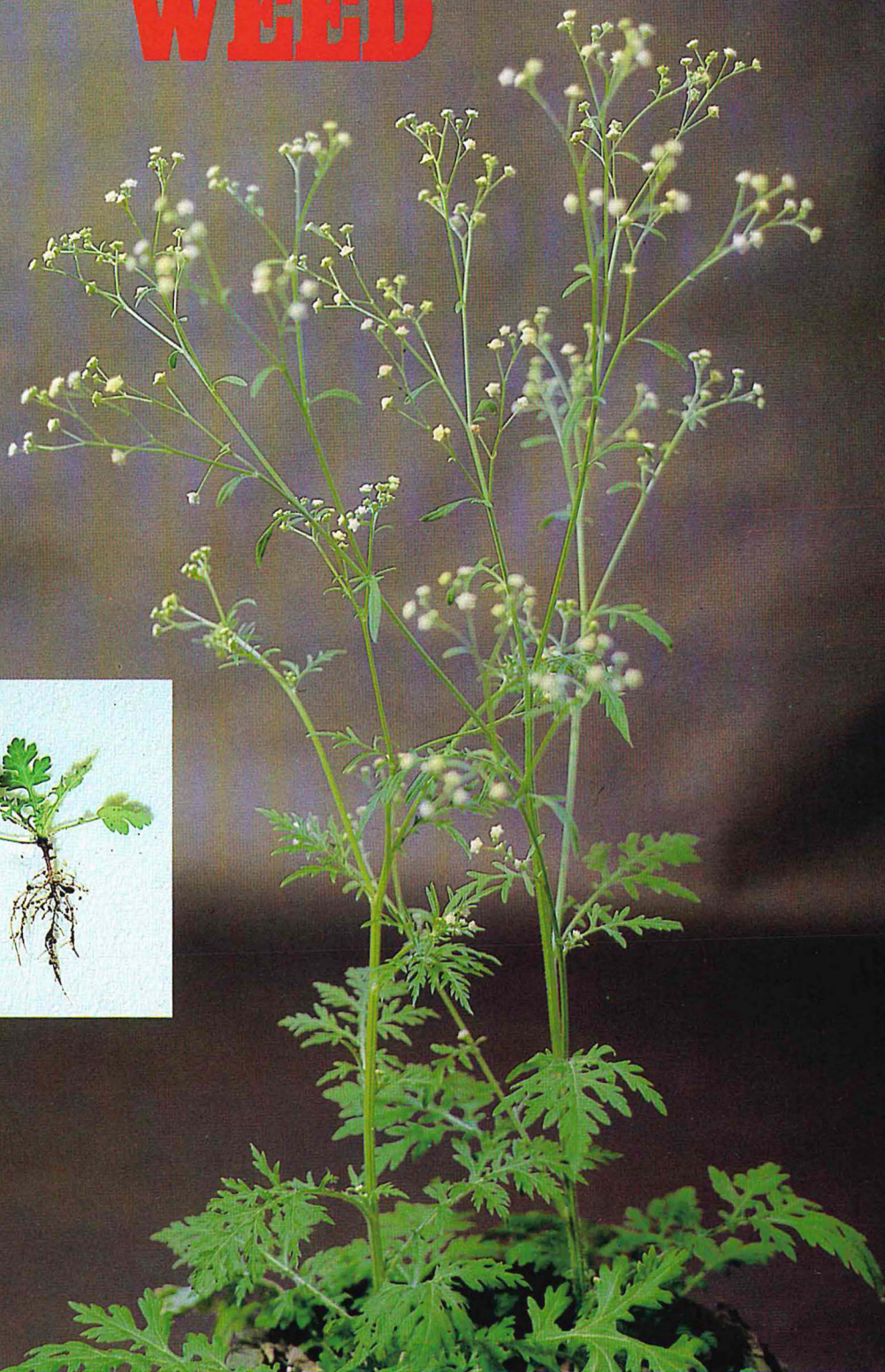


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PARTHENIUM WEED



Mature Plant & Seedling (Inset)

PARTHENIUM WEED

PARTHENIUM WEED (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is a member of the Compositae (daisy family). It originated in the tropics of north and south America and has since become an introduced weed in India and Queensland.

Outbreaks have occurred in the Northern Territory and WA but appear to have been eradicated. It is essential to find and eliminate new outbreaks whenever they occur. Parthenium weed is a declared noxious weed Category A (eradication) throughout the Northern Territory.

Description:

Parthenium weed is an erect herbaceous annual plant up to 2m in height. It has dull green leaves arranged

alternately up the stems. They are deeply dissected near the base, and usually die at flowering.

The stems are covered with soft white hairs.

Parthenium weed has numerous white flowers borne in compact heads near the top of the stems. Four triangular flattened seeds are formed from each floret. Each seed is 1-2mm long and enclosed in a fine white seed case.

Parthenium weed has a strong deep taproot.

Ecology:

Parthenium weed is an aggressive plant which spreads by seeds colonizing bare, eroded, overgrazed and otherwise disturbed areas. The seeds have no dormancy or hardseededness and

germinate when soil moisture is sufficient.

Seeds may be spread by road graders, motor vehicles and by water. Major outbreaks are limited to the 500-800mm rainfall zone within 2° north and south of the tropic of Capricorn in Queensland but outbreaks have been found far north of this in the Northern Territory.

For information on Parthenium Weed recognition and control contact the Agriculture Protection Board, Jarrah Road, South Perth, Western Australia 6151. Telephone (09) 367 0111 or any country office of the APB or the Department of Agriculture.