

SPECIES: *PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS*

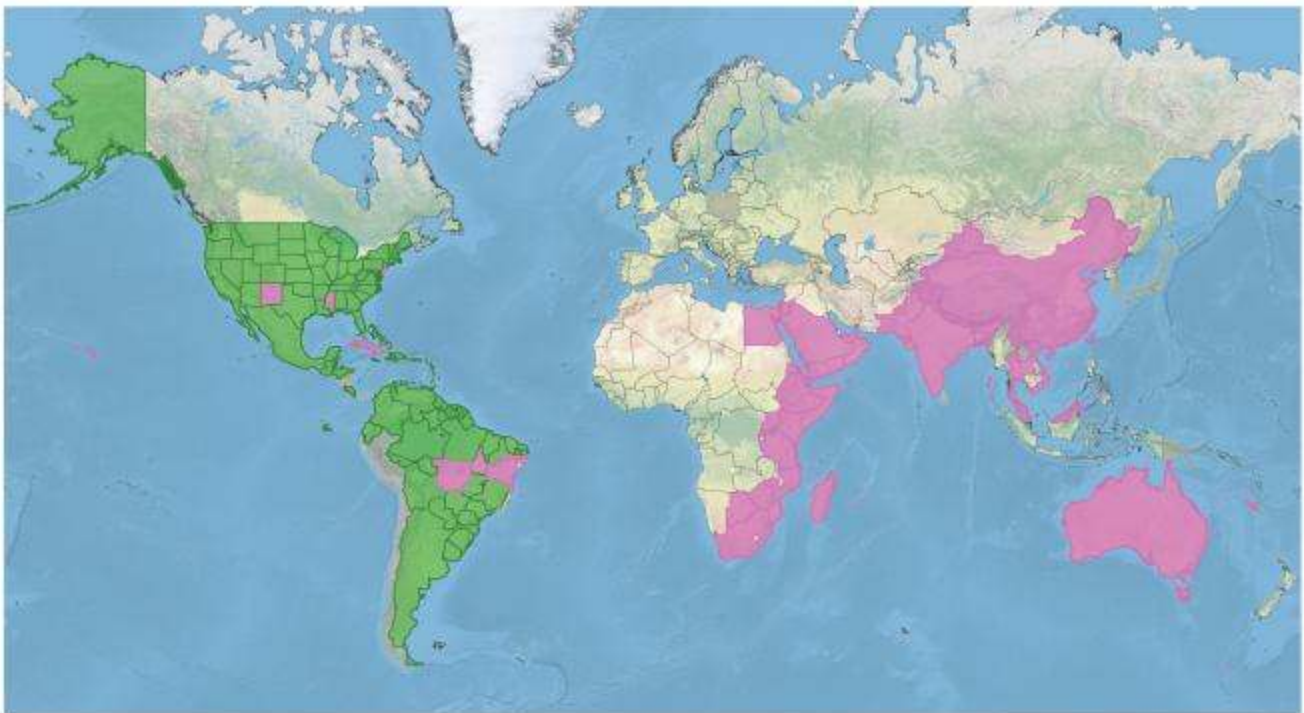
COMMON NAME: CONGRESS GRASS / CARROT GRASS

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

Plant Description

A herbaceous plant that can grow up to 1.5 m tall. It has been recorded at elevations up to 2000 masl. The numerous small cream white flowers are found throughout the year. The leaves are deeply divided and the greenish mature stems are hairy. The plant is commonly found in open areas like roadsides, grasslands, and agricultural fallows.





Source: CABI, 2022. *Parthenium hysterophorus* In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/45573#toDistributionMaps> [accessed: 25/01/2022]

■ Introduced
■ Native
■ Origin not recorded

***Parthenium hysterophorus* ASTERACEAE**

Origin: Central and South America

Introduction: Thought to have arrived accidentally in the 1950s with wheat imported from America; the plant was first recorded from Pune, Maharashtra, in 1956, but herbarium records from 1810 suggest it was introduced much earlier.

Impacts: Chemicals produced by the plant can affect crop germination and growth. Contact with the plant can cause skin allergies, and its pollen can cause respiratory problems. The plant takes over grasslands leading to loss in fodder for cattle.

Management: *P. hysterophorus* is a difficult plant to manage since removal by hand causes skin irritation. Burning is not recommended because the residues are harmful to other plants. Other methods, e.g., chemical control using herbicides and biological control using insects have not proved effective.

