

Pineapple Weed

Matricaria discoidea DC.

Alternate Names

Disc mayweed

Synonyms

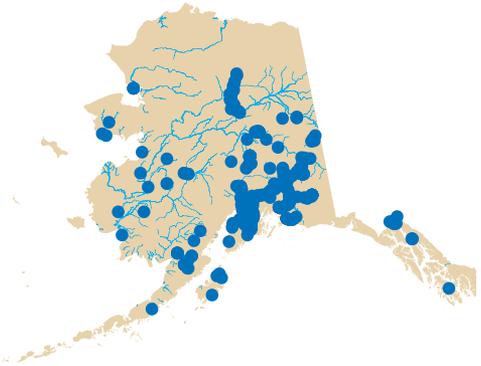
Artemisia matricarioides auct. non Less, *Chamomilla suaveolens* (Pursh) Rydb., *Lepidanthus suaveolens* (Pursh) Nutt., *Lepidotheca suaveolens* (Pursh) Nutt., *Matricaria matricarioides* (Less.) Porter, *Matricaria suaveolens* L., *Tanacetum suaveolens* Hook.

Description

Pineapple weed is a low-branching annual plant with leafy stems up to 1 foot tall but generally less than 6 inches tall. The plant gives off a chamomile scent when crushed. Leaves are alternate and divided several times into narrow segments. Small yellow disc florets are arranged in a cone-shaped head, $\frac{3}{16}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch wide. Ray florets are absent. Each head is surrounded by several overlapping bracts with papery margins. Plants bloom from early spring to autumn.

Similar Species

There are no other diminutive, rayless composite species that may be confused with pineapple weed in Alaska.



National Park Service photo by Penny Bauder

Management

Pineapple weed plants are easily pulled up, although several weeding may be necessary (Densmore et al. 2001). Some herbicides are effective.

Notes

Pineapple weed has been used in a decoction for graying hair, in an infusion against spasms and disorders of the stomach, and externally as an antiseptic and vulnerary. The genus name comes from the Latin matrix, meaning “the womb,” because these plants were also used to soothe discomforts associated with menstruation or pregnancy.



XID Services photo by Richard Old