Gajar Booti
Root it out
What is Parthenium?

Parthenium is a toxic weed which has invaded Pakistan. It can be hard to tell it apart from other weeds, but it’s important to be able to identify it because it has harmful effects on people, crops, livestock and the environment so it needs to be ‘rooted out’!

How can you spot it?

Parthenium grows rapidly during the spring and summer months, of April to November. It grows to a height of 1.5 metres and spreads up to 10,000 seeds far and wide.

Don’t confuse Parthenium with:  
- Cannabis Sativa  
- Artemesia sp
Parthenium is dangerous!

Avoid crop losses
Parthenium invades crops and has been known to cause up to 40% losses. The weed releases a chemical which suppresses crops like beans, eggplant, peppers and tomatoes from growing.

Protect your health
Over 70% of people experience health problems when they come into contact with Parthenium.
• Asthma
• Bronchitis
• Dermatitis
• Eye irritation
• Rhinitis

Protect your livestock
Parthenium is poisonous to your livestock. It can have serious impacts because it contains toxins which reduce the appetite of livestock and taint their milk and meat.
How to control Parthenium

Don’t spread Parthenium
• Plant certified seed
• Wash machinery, vehicles and tools before and after using in the field
• Don’t pack fruit and vegetables with Parthenium or give to livestock during transportation
• Don’t buy flower bouquets which contain Parthenium flowers

Uproot Parthenium
• Wear gloves and face mask to remove Parthenium from your land by hand. ‘Root it out’ by pulling it up, or hoe larger plants. Remove the roots to avoid re-growth
• Bury uprooted plants to avoid spreading their seeds in the wind
• For larger areas of Parthenium you may consider using herbicides

Check your land
• Check weekly for Parthenium plants. Control the plants when they are small, before they disperse their seeds
• Be vigilant after rain as it will increase Parthenium growth
• Act as soon as you find Parthenium on your land

Control Parthenium
Spray your field using:
• Ametryn and Atrazine (trade names include Atrazine+Ametryn 80 WP by Target, Ali Akbar). Mix 20gm per litre of water
• Atrazine+S-Metolachlor (trade names include Primextra gold 720 SC) before your crops have emerged. Mix 10-15 ml per litre water
Wear protective clothing, follow product label for timing of application and pre-harvest interval.
To win against Parthenium we need to all work together to

‘Root it out’

• Be vigilant
• Act quickly
• Root it out by hand
• Use appropriate herbicides, safely

For more information and support on managing Parthenium on your farm please contact: +92-333-0132431

www.invasive-species.org