Parthenium seeds are small (1.5 - 2.5 mm long), grey to black, flattened and spatulate in shape topped with two or three small scales. Each flower has 5 seeds.

When Parthenium germinates it looks similar to a carrot plant. Leaves have radial arrangement at ground level. Leaves are finely lobed.

Parthenium mature stems are green with deep grooves. They are covered with fine hairs.

Plants grow to around 1.5m in height. Flowers are clustered at the tips of branches.

Distinctive small, star-shaped white flowers about 6mm in size.

A mass of Parthenium plants in a field.

Parthenium produces many flowers and therefore many seeds. Each plant can produce up to 10,000 seeds which are dispersed by wind and water.

Leaves are pales green and covered with short, stiff hairs. They are deeply-lobed, especially towards the base of the plant.

Deep tap roots of the Parthenium plant.