

## Farmers' awareness about *Parthenium hysterophorus* and its ill effect on agriculture, environment and health of human and livestock

C.B. GAIKWAD, J.H. GAIKWAD AND M.C. KASTURE

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

**C.B. Gaikwad**  
Department of  
Agronomy, Mahatma  
Phule Krishi  
Vidyapeeth, Rahuri,  
AHMEDNAGAR  
(M.S.) INDIA

### ABSTRACT

The study revealed that in semi-arid region, there was plenty of *Parthenium* spread in cropped area during rainy season only. In assured rainfall region, the *Parthenium* spread was throughout the year. In drought region, the grazing animals' viz., cattle, buffalo etc. suffered from skin diseases by feeding *Parthenium*. From the study it was indicated that some people suffered severe allergic reactions of the plant or its pollens, which led into suffering from dermatitis, hay fever and asthma. The data indicated that there was no awareness in people about control of *Parthenium* by chemical and biological means. Majority of farmers control *Parthenium* by mechanical methods only but had unsatisfactory results. Some of them used chemicals for control. Very few farmers used to know about good effect of *Parthenium* like composting, green manuring, use of *Parthenium* extract for controlling pod borer in pigeonpea, etc.

### INTRODUCTION

*Parthenium hysterophorus* is an obnoxious weed (Javed, 2005). It has spread throughout India after its first occurrence in Pune in 1956. *Parthenium* is a weed of international significance (Javed *et al.*, 2006). It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in India, owing to its allelopathic effects on agriculture and forestry crops and due to its harmful effect on man and animals. *Parthenium* is largely a weed of the fallow and wastelands but, its impact on agriculture and forestry crops has also been documented (Javed and Raiz, 2007). It has become a menace in many forest nurseries in Maharashtra and has spread to many forest areas in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. To overcome the *Parthenium* menace, integrated weed management has been considered to be the only its viable solution.

The general survey of *Parthenium* infestation has been carried out in different blocks of Ahmednagar district. There was heavy infestation of *Parthenium* in all the blocks. In Shrigonda tahsil full infestation was observed. Heavy infestation of *Parthenium* in rainy season was noticed through out all blocks. But in winter season, the irrigated areas like Rahuri, Rahata, Kopergaon, Nagar, Shrirampur, Parner blocks have heavily infested by *Parthenium*. Akola block of heavy rainfall area was frequently infested by *Parthenium*.



Fig. 1: *Parthenium* infestation in Pune district

In Pune district, the *Parthenium* infestation was very high through out all the seasons. All tahsils except Bhor, Velha of Ghat region were infested by *Parthenium*. The Pune-Bangalore Golden Qudralateral highway was also infested by the *Parthenium*. In Satara district, the medium rainfall zone like Medha and Wai tahsils were also infested by *Parthenium*. All highways, parks were infested by *Parthenium*. In winter and summer season,



Fig. 2: *Parthenium* infestation in Sangli district

### Key words :

Awareness,  
*Parthenium*  
*hysterophorus*, Ill  
effect

Accepted :  
September, 2008