**Parthenium hysterophorus** is an alien weed of national significance. It is popularly known as congress grass, carrot weed, white cap or top, gajar ghas, chatak chandni, asadi, gajari, phandriphuli, nakshatra gida, vayyari bhama and safed topi. Since its introduction into country in 1950s, it has invaded 35 million hectares of cultivated, uncultivated, waste lands, road sides, railway tracks etc.

It is a fast maturing annual, which can grow to a height of 1.5 - 2.0 m having branches and leaves covered with fine hairs. It produces large number of small white flowers and seeds of light weight that are easily dispersed to distant places. A single plant can produce 5,000 to 25,000 seeds.

**How to control it?**

- As it is mainly a weed of no-man's land, therefore, community efforts involving all the sections of the society like colony residents, farmers, municipalities, NGOs, school children etc. are required to keep their respective surroundings free from Parthenium.

- Uproot the weed before flowering and make compost by pit method. It may also be used for vermicomposting.

- Organize meetings, demonstrations to make people aware about Parthenium menace and its management.

- Spray herbicides like glyphosate (1-1.5%) for total vegetation control and metribuzin (0.3-0.5%) or 2,4-D (1.5) if grasses are to be saved in non-agricultural lands. Spray herbicides for controlling dwarf rosette formation during summer and winter.

- For controlling Parthenium in cropped areas, use herbicide only after consulting a weed scientist.

- Release bioagent *Zygogramma bicolorata* in infested areas during June-August.

- Broadcast seeds of self-perpetuating competitive plant species like *Cassia tora, tagetes erecta* to replace Parthenium.

Join hands to eliminate Parthenium to save health, environments and biodiversity.

For more information, please contact: Dr. P.K. Singh, Director ICAR-Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur - 482 004 (M.P.) Ph.: (0761) 2353934, Fax: 2353129, e-mail: dirdwshr@icar.org.in ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified

Please visit website: www.dwr.org.in

Prepared by: Dr. Sushilkumar