PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Lepidium draba* (L.) Desv.

**GENUS** *Lepidium* **FAMILY** Brassicaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Hoary Pepperwort, Whitetop

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, Stems, Seeds - spice

Young shoots and leaves are eaten in salads or as a potherb. They are roasted and used in pies. They are fried with eggs.
The pungent seeds are used as a seasoning. They are a substitute for pepper.

## DESCRIPTION

A cabbage family herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It has a stout taproot. It also has a tough, woody, much-branched root system. New shoots can develop from these side roots. The plant grows to 90 cm high. The stem is usually unbranched except just near the top. The leaves are oblong or oval and covered with flattened hairs. The leaves do not have stalks and clasp the stem. The flowers are in a flat topped panicle. The petals are white. The fruit are heart shaped. The fruit separates from the plant as a single seeded nutlet.

## HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows on mountain slopes, roadsides, fields, agricultural lands, river banks, pastures and waste areas near sea level to 4200 m in China. It is drought and frost resistant. It can grow in arid places. Tasmania Herbarium.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown by seed. It can spread by seeds or rhizomes.

## NOTES

Declared noxious weed in Victoria.
It does not contain oxalic acid in samples in Spain.

## PICTURES




Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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