

*Erigeron canadensis* L., HORSEWEED. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, unbranched or with a cluster of principal axes unbranched below inflorescence, erect (to ascending), in range 20–200+ cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, leafy throughout, above midplant commonly with tufts of leaves from unexpanded axillary shoots, sparsely stiff-strigose to hirsute. **Stems:** cylindric, to 10 mm diameter, with 3 veins descending from each leaf but scarcely raised, greenish striped with yellow-green to tannish white or orangey tan veins. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile and indistinctly petiolate (rosette and lower cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole to 7 mm long, weakly differentiated from tapered leaf base; blade linear to oblanceolate-linear, 7–70 × 1–6 mm, tapered at base, entire to remotely serrate on 1 margin + stiff-strigose to coarsely ciliate on other margin, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, strigose especially along principal veins. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal, open, paniclelike arrays, array sometimes with lower branches overtopping main axis, 120–500+ × 40–260 mm, several–many branched from rachis, head obscurely radiate, ca. 3 mm across, in range with 24–40 pistillate peripheral flowers in 2+ series and ca. 10–15 bisexual disc flowers, bracteate, sparsely hairy; bract subtending lateral branch leaflike, 10–40 mm long; lateral branches producing ascending cymelike clusters of several–many heads; bract subtending peduncle, decreasing upward; peduncle 1–15 mm long, often low-ridged, strigose, with 1–several linear-lanceolate bracts (= bracts subtending future peduncles); **involucre** bell-shaped, 2.7–4 × ± 2.5 mm becoming wider in fruit, phyllaries 23–30, unequal and graduated in 3–4 series, linear, 0.7–3.5 × 0.25–0.4 mm, the shortest in outer series, green with translucent midvein, white-membranous on margins, fringed at acute tip, glabrous or sparsely strigose along midvein, strongly reflexed in fruit; receptacle flat, 1–1.5 mm diameter, without bractlets (paleae), pitted with short teeth surrounding each ovary. **Peripheral flower:** pistillate, bilateral, < 0.2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 19–22 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, fine, 2.2–2.5 mm long, tawny; **corolla** 2-lobed or acute at tip; tube cylindric, 2 mm long, light green, with a few hairs at tip; limb erect, slender, ca. 1 × 0.25 mm, white (sometimes at tip aging reddish) but greenish at base; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, oblanceoloid-ellipsoid compressed side-to-side, 1 mm long, finely short-hairy, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exserted, 2–2.5 mm long, white, 2-branched, the branches spreading. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 0.4 mm across, 2.5–2.8 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** of 20–25(–29) capillary bristles in 1 whorl, 2.2–2.8 mm long, white; **corolla** (4–)5-lobed, 2.2–2.8 mm long; tube + throat cylindric, greenish white; lobes acute, 0.1–0.25 mm long, pale greenish yellow with greenish marginal vein; **stamens** (4–)5, fused to corolla at top of tube, included; filaments < 0.5 mm long; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ± 0.7 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, oblanceoloid-ellipsoid compressed side-to-side, 1 mm long, finely short-hairy, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style 2–2.5 mm long, 2-branched, the branches exserted. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, with spheroidal array of pappus ca. 8 mm diameter, monomorphic; fruit body oblong to oblanceoloid, 1–1.3 mm long, pale tan to light gray-brown, sparsely and finely sericeous on faces; pappus of 19–25(–29) whitish, ascending, fine capillary bristles, 2–2.7 mm long. Late May–early February.

Native. Annual extremely common in disturbed to waste locations throughout the range, hence many observers mistakenly consider this to be an introduced weed, not a native. *Erigeron canadensis* is also treated elsewhere as *Conyza canadensis*. Typically horseweed is unbranched, including individuals that are short to extremely tall, and it has leaves from near the base after the rosette leaves have abscised. In range plants tend to be sparsely hairy on vegetative and reproductive shoots. Its heads are significantly smaller than those of *E. bonariensis*, which is less common but a much more hairy plant.

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