

# Lesser Swinecress

**Genus / Species:**

Coronopus didymus (L.) Sm.  
(Senebiera didyma (L.) Pers.)

**Family:** Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)

**Annual**

No Image  
Available

Lesser Swinecress occurs throughout the State and is found in waste areas, arable crops, and pasture during the establishment stage. It may also be present in weak established pasture. It is a moderately competitive species, and is a major cause of taint in milk. Germination occurs in Autumn or Spring.

The cotyledon is 7 to 12 mm long overall with a merging petiole, and is hairless. The seedling has a short hypocotyl and no epicotyl. The first leaves, which develop singly, are 12 to 20 mm long overall of which about half is petiole. The leaves are hairless. The first leaf has a simple margin or only small lobes; later leaves become increasingly lobed and ultimately pinnate. The plant forms a rosette some 200 mm in diameter.

The mature plant is prostrate and spreading or semi-erect in habit. The stems, which reach 400 mm or more in length, are much branched, solid, fluted or circular in cross section with longitudinal grooves and carry long thin white hairs. They tend to be darker in colour on the upper side. The stem leaves are pinnate with a short petiole, and hairless. The plant has a distinctive 'cressy' smell when crushed.

The inflorescences are terminal or axillary, the flowers being very small, only some 1.5 to 2.0 mm in diameter with four petals. The fruit has a distinctive double sphere shape.

Swinecress is difficult to distinguish from *Cotula* except when seed or flowers are present. The 'cressy' smell of Swinecress is distinctive, as are the small cotyledons of *Cotula* if present, but these do not usually persist. Though generally very similar there are differences in leaf shape; the terminal leaflet of *Cotula* often has three lobes while that of Swinecress is often single, and the leaflets on *Cotula* are usually pinnately lobed while the leaflets of Swinecress tend to have lobes on one side and not pinnately paired lobes.

**Organic Eradication Methods:**

Organic eradication can be helped by:

- Place 5 or 6 teaspoons of normal table salt (cooking salt) on young plants.
- Manually pull weeds from garden and lawn, ensure ALL root is removed
- Natural Organic fertilizer high in Nitrogen (Chicken manure is ideal) should be added to the lawn during late summer and late winter.
- Soil should be fertile, moist and high in organic matter.

**References:**

**Text sourced from** - Tasmanian Weed Handbook (Department of Agriculture – Tasmania)

An Organic Weed Control Fact Sheet provided by: [Lifestyle Home Services](#)



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