

Observation of 'Parthenium Awareness Week'

Parthenium hysterophorus (Family: Asteraceae), locally called *gajar ghas* or Congress grass, is an alien weed which entered into India along with wheat imported from USA in the early 1950s. Since then it has spread alarmingly and invaded about 35 million hectares of land throughout the country including Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. This weed is notorious to cause many diseases like skin allergy, hay fever, breathing problems in human beings and animals besides reducing agricultural productivity loss of biodiversity (ICAR). This dreaded weed is spreading at an alarming rate in India and all our efforts for its management are falling short. In view of the seriousness and magnitude of the threat posed by this weed, ICAR-NIBSM, Raipur observing 'Parthenium Awareness Week' during 16-22 August, 2019 to make farmers and general public aware about the menace of Parthenium, which is responsible for causing health problems in human beings and animals, besides deteriorating environment, loss of productivity and biodiversity. ICAR-NIBSM planned to organize activities like Parthenium uprooting, spraying herbicides, students' rallies, demonstrations, etc. to educate the farmers and general public about the harmful effects of *Parthenium* and ways of its management.







