

## CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

### Virginia Pepperwood - *Lepidium virginicum*

By Stephen H. Futch

**LEAVES:** alternate, long, narrow, smooth, biennial plants with rosette or deeply cut blades; stem leaves deeply cut on lower stem grading to smooth margins on upper stem; lower leaves wither as plant matures

**STEMS:** green, smooth, branching; erect to ascending; non-branched to having numerous branches

**FLOWERS:** in spike-like arrangement at end of stem and branches

**FRUITS:** round, flat, winged,



capsule-like seed pod on long stalk, notch at tip; peppery-tasting fruit used to flavor salads

**SEEDS:** two per pod; small, slightly wider toward tip

**LIFE CYCLE:** winter annual or biennial

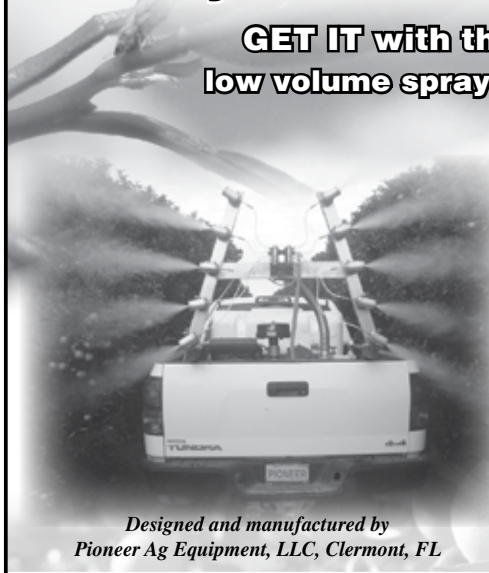
**HEIGHT:** 1 to 2 feet tall

**PROPAGATED BY:** seeds 



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## WHAT'S SHAKIN'

It's time to register for the International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting & Handling Systems of Fruits and Nuts slated for April 2-4 at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred.

Speakers are committed from all over the world. There will be keynote presentations on "Mechanical Harvesting Transformations in Worldwide Olives" with speakers from Australia and Spain, along with "Consumer Acceptance of Mechanically vs. Hand-Harvested Table Olives in California." This is a great opportunity for Florida citrus growers to learn the latest about worldwide mechanical harvesting.

Topics to be covered are "Worldwide Orchard Designs for the Future of Mechanical Harvesting," "Abscission Aids," "Robotic Harvesting and Grading from Japan," and "Collaborative Efforts for Harvester Development and Commercialization in the United States."

The current program and registration are at <http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu>. There's a \$50 discount for early registration and space is limited.

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