

Oxeye daisy, pennyroyal and redroot

Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

- Summary** Widespread - most plentiful in high rainfall areas. Perennial.
- Identification** Erect plant growing 40-80 cm tall with short rhizomes. Leaves are dark green and fairly smooth. It flowers mainly in summer, but also in autumn, and flowers have yellow centres and white petals. Seedlings grow slowly in spring or autumn into small plants with toothed oval leaves.
- Characteristics** Eaten by sheep but not cattle. Is not well controlled by selective pasture herbicides.



Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*)

- Summary** Prefers damp ground - not common in dry areas. Perennial.
- Identification** Has a stolon system, allowing it to spread along the ground and form dense patches in pasture. It has distinctive purple flowers and a strong mint smell when crushed.
- Characteristics** Stock do not eat this plant so it can dominate a pasture if conditions remain moist enough over summer. Milk tainting can occur when cows graze this plant.



Redroot (amaranthus) (*Amaranthus powellii*)

- Summary** Most abundant in the North Island. Annual.
- Identification** A tall upright plant with green leaves that often have a red tinge. The first true leaf of the seedlings has a notch at the tip. It has greenish-brown flowers that feel prickly and produce shiny black seeds.
- Characteristics** A summer annual that dies with frosts in late autumn. It can be a problem in spring-sown pastures because it forms dense patches of upright plants.

