



# HOARY ALYSSUM

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Berteroa icana*

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?:** Hoary alyssum can be an annual, biennial or a short lived perennial that can grow to 3 feet tall. Leaves and stems are covered with fine, whitish hairs giving the plant a gray-green appearance. Multiple thin stems branch near the top where

clusters of white flowers appear.

**WHERE DOES IT GROW?** This introduced member of the mustard family can be found in pastures, on road shoulders and along railroad tracks. It prefers dry, sandy or gravelly soil.



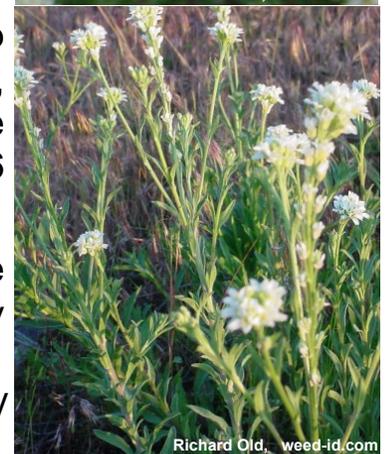
**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?:** Small white flowers appear from May to September.

**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?:** This tap rooted plant reproduces only by seed. Small, oblong, flattened seed pods appear along the stem and each seed pod can contain 2 to 6 seeds.

**TOXICITY:** Horses are noted to become intoxicated after eating green or dried hoary alyssum. They can experience swollen legs

and severe lameness 12 to 24 hours after ingestion of hoary alyssum. Consumption of large quantities can cause diarrhea, leading to dehydration, and can cause abortions in pregnant mares. If treated early, most horses recover.

**HOW DO I CONTROL IT?** Stop it from producing seed and fertilize your grass. Pull it before it flowers in the spring, mow it as it begins to flower but before it produces seed, or treat it chemically. See reverse side for detailed information on mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control options for Hoary Alyssum. Also see our Chemical Treatment handout for more information on using herbicides.



**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**

**10905 N. Ramsey Road**

**Hayden, ID 83835**

**208-446-1290**

**kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)**

For more  
information contact:

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# How to Control Hoary Alyssum

Hoary Alyssum is a short lived plant that reproduces only by seed, so control efforts are centered on preventing seed production.

**Mechanical** Digging/Pulling/Tilling can give good control of Hoary Alyssum, and should be done prior to flowering to prevent seed production. This will need to be repeated until the seed bank is exhausted.

**Cultural** The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Killing weeds is only one step, you have to also replace them with something good. Seed and fertilize so your grass can take nutrients away from the weeds and not leave available open soil for new weeds to germinate.

**Biological** No agents have been registered yet for biological control of Hoary Alyssum.

**Chemical** *\*See our Chemical Treatment handout for more information on herbicide use.*

- **Chlorsulfuron** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Telar XP**. It is broadleaf selective (safe on most grasses) and comes as a dry granule that you must mix in water and agitate before spraying. It is not labeled for Hoary Alyssum, but is recommended by University of Idaho Extension as well as UC Davis WRIC.
- **Metsulfuron Methyl** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Escort XP**. It is broadleaf selective (safe on most grasses) and comes as a dry granule that you must mix in water and agitate before spraying. It is not labeled for Hoary Alyssum, but is recommended by University of Idaho Extension as well as UC Davis WRIC.
- **Sulfometuron** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Oust XP**. It controls many broadleaf weeds as well as some annual and perennial grasses. It comes as a dry granule that must be mixed and agitated in water before spraying. It is not labeled for Hoary Alyssum but is recommended by UC Davis WRIC.

*Chemical recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites, the book Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.*