



HOARY CRESS

BOTANICAL NAME: *Cardarua draba*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Hoary cress is an aggressive, creeping perennial weed that can grow from 1 to 2 feet tall and can be quickly identified by the compact flattop clusters of white flowers. Plants emerge early in the spring and the leaves appear bluish green. This noxious weed is commonly known as whitetop.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW?

Hoary cress prefers to grow in fields, meadows, pastures, croplands and along roadsides. It most often is found in full sun on open areas of disturbed ground.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Hoary cress flowers from May to June and plants set seed by mid-summer.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? Hoary cress reproduces from seed or from buds that form on the horizontal growth of rootstocks. Seed capsules are heart-shaped with two small, flat, reddish brown seeds. One plant can produce from 1,200 to 4,800 seeds.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT? The key to effective control of this plant is preventing it from becoming established on your land. Use a mixture of control methods including using a competitive grass crop, crop rotations, and herbicides.



NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Mowing several times before the plants bolt stresses hoary cress and forces the plant to use nutrient reserves stored in the root system.
 - Hand pulling (using gloves) can be used on small infestations.
 - Hoe or dig out the roots within 10 days of emergence throughout the growing season.
 - Cultivating fallow ground will eventually eliminate hoary cress if it is repeated within 10 days of weed emergence throughout the season and over several years.
- Sheep and goats will graze hoary cress in the rosette stage. This plant **IN LARGE AMOUNTS** is considered mildly toxic to cattle.

CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Apply herbicides to actively growing rosettes early in the spring. Check with your local Noxious Weed Control office for herbicide recommendations.

Want more information? Contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145
kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or www.kcweeds.com

Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.