



TUMBLE MUSTARD

(Sisymbrium altissimum)

NOTE: This is not a noxious weed but an annual weed in Kootenai County

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Sometimes called Jim Hill mustard, this weedy annual can be found over much of the United States and Canada. It can grow 2 to 5 feet tall with a thick taproot. A single stem grows from the base leaves (rosette). The top of the plant is multi branched and can resemble a shrub. Small flowers with four pale yellow petals form in loose clusters at the tips of the branches.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? This plant is common in grain fields, rangelands, unmanaged pastures and along roadsides. It likes to grow in any type of soil and in semi-shade or full sun.



WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Small, pale yellow flowers begin appearing in June and continue thru the summer. The flowers mature quickly, with relatively few in bloom at one time.

HOW DOES THIS PLANT SPREAD? As an annual, tumble mustard reproduces only by seed. Seeds scatter when the dead, dried plant breaks off at soil level in the fall or winter and the wind tumbles it across the ground. The slender, long (2-4inches) seed pod is tough and breaks open slowly, so only a few seeds at a time are released. As a result, the plant will scatter its seeds throughout the fall and winter across many miles. A



single plant can produce up to 1.5 million seeds. Seeds can germinate in the spring or late fall.

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Most livestock will eat tumble mustard when it is young without ill effect.
- Don't turn the soil unless necessary. Maintain a healthy pasture by fertilizing and watering to encourage grasses to grow and shade out weeds.
- Pull or dig the new plants in early spring.
- Mowing will prevent the plant from flowering and setting seed.

CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Spray the newly formed rosette with herbicide in late fall or early spring. Any herbicides that control dandelions will control tumble mustard. Replace the weeds with grasses as soon as possible to prevent more seeds from germinating.

Want more information or herbicide suggestions? Contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145
kcnoxiousweeds@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.