

Hoary Alyssum

Berteroa incana



Family: Brassicaceae

Weed class: B

Year Listed: 2004

Native to: Europe and Asia

Is this Weed Toxic? Yes, to Horses and Livestock

Why Is It a Noxious Weed?

It is noted to invade pastures, out-compete beneficial plants and quickly spread through stressed areas. It has been noted for animal poisoning and potentially cause death. Livestock are known to become intoxicated after eating green or dried plants.

General Description

Hoary alyssum is an upright annual, biennial or short-lived perennial herb growing about 1 to 3.5 feet tall. Plants are covered in stellate hairs causing it to look silvery-gray in color.

Flowers are in simple or branched clusters (racemes) and bloom from the bottom up. Flower petals white, two times longer than sepals and are deeply cleft. Each flower has 6 stamens.

Plants have basal and stem leaves. Leaves are oblanceolate, 0.75 to 2 inches long by 0.2 to 0.4 inches wide, and have smooth margins. Leaves gradually reduce in size moving up the stem with alternate leaf arrangement.

Stems are generally unbranched near base and branched above.

Hoary Alyssum reproduces by seed. They are in somewhat inflated pod-like structures called silicles that are oval shaped and around 0.25 inches long. Seeds are round, brown and have narrowly winged margins.

Where does it grow?

Hoary alyssum adapted to dry conditions on sandy or gravelly soils. It is found in overgrazed pastures, stressed meadows, roadsides and waste areas. It is increasingly becoming a problem in the Northeast section of the state.

General Control Strategy

Well-maintained pastures provide suppression of hoary alyssum through competition.

Mechanical Control: Small invasions can be dug out or hand-pulled. Areas should be surveyed for returning plants and pulled when necessary. Mowing plants before they flower can prevent seed production.

Chemical Control: 2,4-D, WeedMaster®, Prescott® or Opensight®

Additional Photos

