



HOARY CRESS (*Lepidium draba*, *Cardaria draba*)

Family: Brassicaceae (Mustard)

Life Cycle: Perennial

Class: C - Control Required

AKA: Whitetop

HOARY CRESS	DESCRIPTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant generally covered in fine white hairs making plant feel soft or velvety Prolific small flowers bloom in flat-topped flowerheads creating masses of 'whitetop' Roots and rhizomes can account for 75% of plant's biomass Native to Eurasia 	<p>Growth Traits: Deep-rooted, rhizomatous, perennial, herbaceous plant. Plants can grow two to three feet tall and may be covered in short hairs or be hairless. Dies back in drought or freezing conditions, re-sprouting from roots when conditions are favorable.</p> <p>Leaves and Stems: Leaves are blue-green, lance shaped and alternately arranged. Leaf edges smooth to irregularly toothed. Stems are upright and branch near top. Branches end in flower clusters.</p> <p>Flowers: Blooms May - June. Flat-topped clusters of many flowers at end of each stem. Flowers small, and have four white petals.</p> <p>Roots and Reproduction: Extensive system of vertical and horizontal roots may go ten feet deep into soil. Reproduces by spreading vegetative growth which produces clones, and by seed. Rhizomes and root fragments contribute most to the rapid spread of hoary cress. One plant may produce 1,200 to 4,800 seeds which are relatively short lived.</p> <p>Habitat: Prefers moderately moist, alkaline to saline soils, but can tolerate a wide range of conditions. Grows in disturbed open areas such as ditch banks, roadsides, wetlands, pastures, cropland, orchards and vineyards.</p> <p>Toxicity: Toxic to humans and livestock. Plants contain glucosinolates which can be toxic.</p>
CONTROL METHODS	
<p>Mechanical: Hand pulling or digging can be effective on very small infestations. Ensure all root fragments are removed and monitor site for new growth. Mowing will reduce seed production but not vegetative spreading. Repeated tilling can be effective if completed every 10 days.</p> <p>Cultural: Manage grassland health with appropriate grazing, reseeding disturbed areas, and removing outlying hoary cress plants. Sheep and goats will eat young hoary cress, but plants are generally considered unpalatable and may be toxic to cattle.</p> <p>Biological: There are currently no biological agents approved for release in Washington State.</p> <p>Chemical*: Most effective on young actively growing plants before blooming. See table below.</p>	

***ALWAYS read herbicide labels and follow instructions for use and PPE.** The use of a surfactant (aka sticker) increases the efficacy of herbicide application, saving you time and money. If treating over multiple seasons, rotate using herbicides with different modes of action to reduce likelihood of herbicide resistance developing. Below are recommended herbicides based on stage of growth and time of year. All recommendations are supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Noxious Weed Board is implied. Trade names are used to simplify recommendations.

NOTE: There is no 'magic bullet' in noxious weed control, and control efforts must be repeated every season to stop their spread. Using a combination of methods (e.g. cultural and chemical) will lead to better control over time.

April - May Rosette, Seedling Stage	June - July Bolting, Bud, Bloom Stage	August - October Fall Regrowth Stage
2,4-D	Range Star	2,4-D
Range Star	Telar	Telar
Telar	Escort	Escort
Escort		
Method + Telar		