



Fact Sheet 98-65

WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

Hoary Cress

Alias: *Cardaria draba*

Hoary cress, or whitetop, is a member of the mustard family. This perennial weed commonly grows in alkaline soils of disturbed areas. It is highly competitive once established and can take over an area, starting growth early in the spring. Hoary cress grows from both seed and root fragments. Tilling or other mechanical means of control are not recommended since they spread this plant. It has been effectively controlled with herbicides. Whitetop is listed as a noxious weed by Nevada Administrative Code.



Hoary cress grows from both seed and root fragments, therefore, tilling or other mechanical means of control are not recommended.

Distinguishing features:

- ◆ Grows up to 2 feet tall, but is often shorter on very dry sites.
- ◆ Multiple stems can arise from the base.
- ◆ Leaves are bluish green, waxy, and blade shaped. The upper leaves have two lobes that clasp the stem.
- ◆ The many white flowers are small and form rounded clusters at the top of each stalk. Heart-shaped seed capsules follow them.

Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Remove all weed seeds from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area.
- ◆ Carefully remove any seeds and dig up the plant. Dispose of the seeds, shoots, and roots in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may also be available to kill this plant.
- ◆ Early action is imperative. It saves money, time, and effort, and protects the environment.

Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension
775-784-1334;

Nevada Division of Agriculture
Bureau of Plant Industry,
775-688-1180; or

Your local Weed District manager or
Conservation District: