



Fact Sheet 98-69

WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

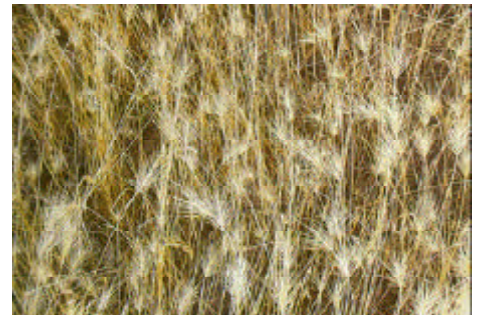
This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

Medusahead

Alias: *Taeniatherum caput-medusae*

Medusahead is an extremely competitive winter annual grass that crowds out even unwanted species like cheatgrass. It was introduced from Eurasia and now dominates millions of acres of semi-arid rangeland in the Pacific Northwest. Affected rangelands suffer a 40 to 75 percent reduction in grazing capacity.

Control of small isolated occurrences is critical to reducing its spread in the Great Basin. Once dominant in an area, rehabilitation or restoration of the area can be very difficult and expensive. The barbs or awns on the seed head may cause dangerous disease-prone puncture wounds to grazing animals. They may also become caught in dogs' paws and hikers' socks.



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Distinguishing features:

- ◆ Grows 6 to 18 inches tall.
- ◆ Leaf blade is narrow, 1/8 inch wide, and is rolled in the stalk.
- ◆ Flowers and seeds form in May and June.
- ◆ The barbed awn of the mature seed is twisted and can be 1 to 4 inches long. The twisted awn distinguishes medusahead from foxtail barley and squirreltail.

Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Avoid walking on, driving on, or camping in infested areas.
- ◆ Remove all weed seeds from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area. Herbicides may also be available to kill this plant.

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: