Hoary cress

(Cardaria draba)

Hoary cress	
General	Family: Mustard (Brassicaceae) Introduced in the late 19th century from Europe List B
Common names	Whitetop, Heart-podded whitetop
Habitat	Deep rooted creeping herbaceous perennial Found in moist and transitional areas, rights-of- way, fields, and cropland Alkaline and disturbed soils Very competitive once established, easily displaces native vegetation and forms monocultures
PLANT	
Vegetation	Up to 2 feet tall Leaves are blue-green Lower leaves are stalked and upper leaves have two lobes that clasp the stem Oval or oblong with toothed or almost smooth margins; covered with very fine white hairs
Roots	Rhizomatous lateral roots send up shoots which develop independent taproots Release chemicals that hinder the growth of cereals
Flower	April - May White with four petals 1/8 inch wide Multiple flowers clustered at the end of stems
Seed	1,200-4,800 seeds per plant Viable 1-2 years Heart-shaped seed pod contains two oval, finely pitted, red-brown seeds each about 1/12 inch long
Seedling	Most emerge in April, some fall germination possible under optimum conditions
Reproduction	Seed and vegetative

CONTROL			
BIOLOGICAL	*None*		
CHEMICAL	***Stage***	***Herbicide***	***Timing***
	Early bud; i.e. “broccoli” stage	Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Metsulfuron (Escort)	Early Spring - Early Summer
	Late to post-flower	Imazapic (Plateau)	Late Spring - Mid-Summer
CULTURAL	Prevention. Hand-pulling not recommended because plants regenerate from root fragments. Cultivation spreads the plant and is not recommended unless area is plowed every couple weeks during the growing season for up to three years.		
MECHANICAL	***Stage***	***Method***	***Timing***
Burning	N/A		
Grazing	N/A	Not readily grazed by livestock May taint meat and milk May poison livestock	
Mowing	N/A	May spread seed May disturb the root system New plants form from plant fragments	

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products.

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