

HOARY CRESS

Common Names: Whitetop - *Cardaria draba* Desv.

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Plant Description: Hoary cress is a deep rooted perennial forb with a spreading root system from which many aerial shoots are produced. Leaves are blue-green in color and lance shaped. Plants can grow up to 2 feet tall. Plants emerge very early in the spring and have bloomed and set seed by mid-summer.

Flowers: Numerous white flowers give the plant a white, flat-topped appearance.

Seed Pods: Heart shaped pod each containing 2 reddish brown seeds. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for 3 years.

Seed Production: One plant can produce 1,200 to 4,800 seeds.

Habitat: Common on alkaline, disturbed soils and is highly competitive with other species once it becomes established.

What Are Noxious Weeds?

Noxious Weeds are defined by the State Weed Board as plants that negatively impact agriculture, wildlife, human health, land values or natural resources.

Noxious Weed Related Concerns:

Increased soil erosion, displacement of native or desirable vegetation, water shed impacts, toxicity concerns, reduced recreation, property value and livestock carrying capacity, allergies and increased fire frequency.

What Can You Do To Help?

- 1) Learn how to recognize weed species.
- 2) Reseed disturbed soil.
- 3) Check your vehicle, yourself and pets for hitchhiking weeds.
- 4) Purchase and transport weed free forage.
- 5) Pull up small isolated weeds when encountered.
- 6) Report weed infestations to the proper authority and help spread the word **BECAUSE** weeds affect **Everyone!**

Weed education is a cooperative effort between WSU Douglas County Extension, Douglas County and Foster Creek Conservation District.



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