

Hoary Cress or Whitetop

Cardaria draba

Hoary Cress, or Whiteop as it's commonly called, is a perennial plant with many little white flowers with four petals each. The plant spreads by seed and by vigorous rhizomes that creep underground. Once established, it's difficult to eradicate.

The seed bank is viable for up to three years, and this plant loves disturbed areas and alkaline soils.



Height: up to 2 feet

Blooms: April to June

Leaves: Bluish green 1.5 to 4 inches

Flowers: White, 4 petals

Hoary Cress is a member of the Brassicaceae (mustard) family and many online sources suggest it is a delicious edible. Unfortunately, it was brought to the US from Eurasian and is invasive to rangelands throughout North America.

For more information about this noxious weed and ways to eradicate it, visit

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/hoary-cress>

Ouray County Weed Management

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Hoary cress is a persistent weed that competes with native plants and forage. Here, seeds travel waterways to spread to other areas in a short time.