

## **Invasive Species Factsheet-Whitetop**

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**Species Common Name:** Whitetop, Hoary Cress

**Species Scientific Name:** *Cardaria draba*

**Native Range and Introduction:** This plant is native to the Mediterranean region and was introduced into the United States in contaminated seed and an ornamental species in the 1800's. Since its introduction it has primarily been moved as contaminated seed and in plant products.

**Description:** Perennial species growing to about two feet tall. It primarily spreads by seeds, but can spread through its adventitious roots (along with root segments). Its leaves are alternate, lance shaped with lobbed margins (especially at maturity), and clasp the stem. The entire plant is hairless, with a greenish grey appearance. The plant has small white flowers at the top of the plant in an umbel shape. The plant flowers usually in May, while going to seed shortly after, in some cases before June.

**Ecological and Economic Threats:** Ecological is a hardy invader that can easily form large monocultures that lead to less biodiversity. This plant can take up large quantities of water, taking away any water reserves soil are holding, leading to higher erosion and less competition from any other species. Economically can take over hayfields in Wyoming leading to lower yields and less desirable product. This plant has also shown to have allelopathic effects on many crop species such as wheat, barley, and some vegetable crops.

**Regulated Status in Wyoming:** Whitetop is on the State Designated Noxious Species List and is also on the North American Invasive Species Management Association Weed Free Forage Noxious Species List that Wyoming uses for weed free forage standards.

**Distribution in Wyoming:** This species is found in all counties in Wyoming.

### **Control Options:**

**Mechanical:** As the plant can reproduce from root parts, mechanical methods are not an ideal control mechanisms, but repetitive treatment could lead to stopping seed production or lower plant vigor.

**Chemical:** Many different ALS inhibitor herbicides such as Escort (Metsulfuron Methyl) or Telar XP (Chlorsulfuron).

**Cultural:** This could include changing farming practices to employ better management practices, such as changing a perennial alfalfa hayfield to an annual grains field.

**Biological:** Currently no insects available to the public, but some are in the final stages of protocol before they are available.

**Integrated Weed Management:** This could involve rotating an old alfalfa hay field out to a spring wheat with a RoundUp (Glyphosate) application before planting in the spring.

### **Online Resources:**

URL: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5232>

URL: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/10621>

URL: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/whitetop.shtml>

Image 1 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1595063>

Image 2 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5374990>



Image 1-Flowers



Image 2-Leaves and Stem

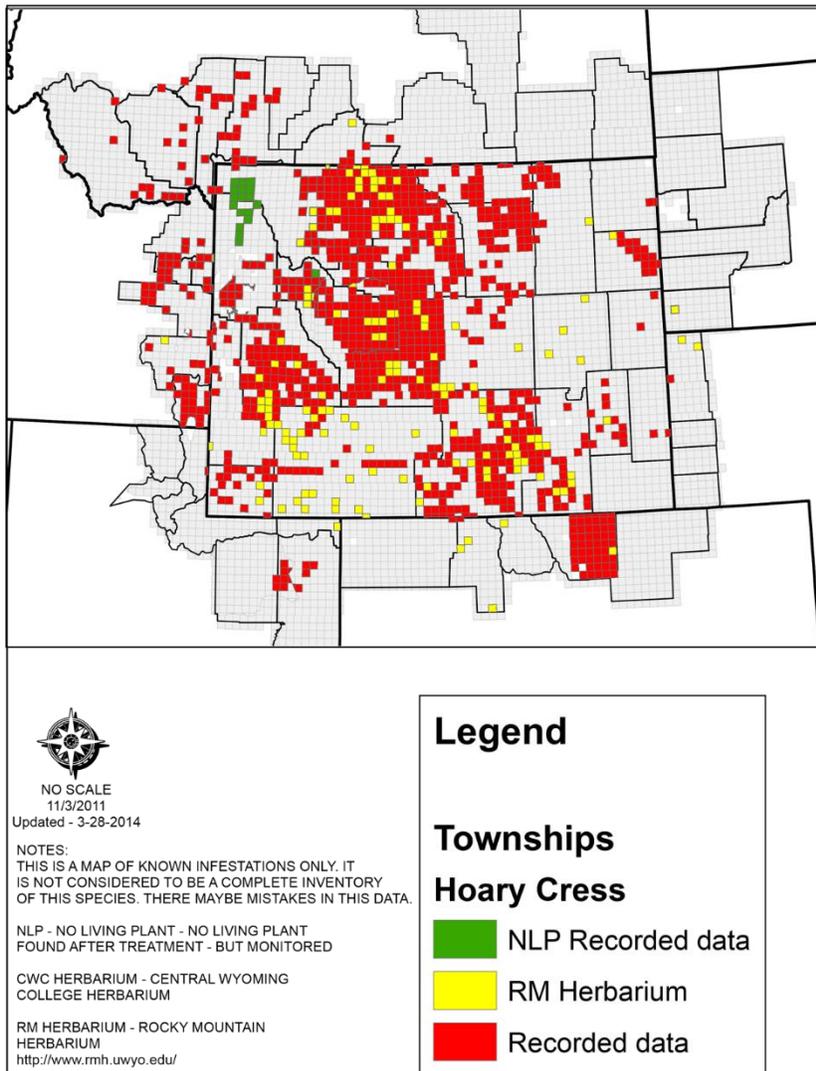


Figure 1-Whitetop Distribution in Wyoming and Surrounding States

URL: [http://wyoweed.org/images/Weed\\_Maps/Hoary\\_Cress.pdf](http://wyoweed.org/images/Weed_Maps/Hoary_Cress.pdf)