

Whitetop (Hoary Cress)

Cardaria draba

Whitetop is a perennial, native to Europe and Western Asia. Whitetop is a deep rooted creeping perennial mustard plant that grows up to 2 feet tall, reproducing from root segments and seeds. Leaves are blue-green in color with the lower leaves being stalked and the upper leaves having two lobes clasping the stem. Plants have many white flowers with four petals, giving the plant a white, flat-topped appearance. Plants emerge in very early spring and have bloomed and set seed by early to mid-summer. Whitetop is a very aggressive plant that will eventually eliminate desirable vegetation. The plant is common on alkaline and disturbed soils.

Chemical Control:

Herbicide	Time of Use	Rates*	Other Notes
Dicamba (Banvel, Clarity, Vanquish)	Apply dicamba on pastures, rangeland and noncropland at the early bud stage and at the rosette stage.	Rates over 2 lb ai/A may temporarily injure many grass species. Newly seeded grasses may be injured at rates over .75 lb ai/A. Do not exceed 8 lb ai/A per season.	Dicamba seriously reduces seed production of grasses or grain crops if applied at the wrong growth stage. Meat animals must be removed from treated areas 30 days before slaughter. See label for other grassing restrictions.
2,4-D LV Ester	Apply before bud stage.	Rate of 2 to 3 lb ae/A in noncropland and 1lb ae/A in a selective treatment.	Little control is attained after the bud stage. Avoid drift to sensitive crops. See label for more information on spray restrictions.

*(ai/A= active ingredient per acre. ae/A= acid equivalent per acre = the acid portion of the active ingredient.)

Long Term Control & Management:

In cultivated areas alternative cropping and summer fallow will provide good control. The land should be till after harvest to destroy new seedlings or shoots. When re-seeding pastures, plant seed that is weed free, feed weed free hay to livestock. Clean Machinery that has been in infested areas before they are relocated to new areas.