

Perennial Pepperweed, Hoary Cress and related whitetops

Lepidim latifolium L., *Cardaria draba* (L.) Desv., *C. pubescens* (C. A. Meg Jarmolenko), and *C. chalapensis* L.

Identification:

Perennial weeds from the mustard family, they reproduce by seed or from horizontal root stalks. Leaves grow from ground level to form rosettes from fall to spring. Stems shoot up from rosettes during spring to heights of 1-3'. Basal leaves are usually larger than stem leaves. Leaves are often gray-green to blue-green in appearance. Dense white flower clusters near branch ends appear in May and June. Plants have many white flowers with four petals, giving the plant a white, flat-topped appearance.



Potential Damage:

This highly aggressive noxious weed is capable of invasion and take over of rangeland, pasture, and croplands. It is common in disturbed areas, and is highly competitive with other species. Waxy leaf coatings make chemical control difficult. Often, but not always, found in wetlands and moist areas.

Control and Prevention:

Take care not to drive or walk through infested areas. Stop and inspect vehicle between patrol units. MARK SITE on map and provide to Refuge Operations Specialist upon return from field. Control of this plant is difficult due to the fact that the plant can spread from both seeds and root shoots, and waxy leaves make chemical control difficult. Restoration plans should be made for areas where control is conducted. Developing an accurate map of where this plant occurs on the Monument/Refuge is a high priority. Perennial Pepperweed is a Class B noxious weed in Washington state and land owners/managers are legally required to prevent the spread of this plant.



Current Status on the Hanford Reach

National Monument: A population of white top was noticed post-fire near Rattlesnake springs on ALE. Also, along highway 240 through ALE north of the 118 gate. Please look for this plant on Saddle Mountain and Wahluke so that all populations of this plant can be mapped.