

◆ **Management**

Response to Chemical Methods: The measures used for control of general mustard species are expected to effectively suppress hoary alyssum. Selective herbicide control of mustard species can be found in the PNW Weed Management Handbook under “Mustards Weedy”. All herbicide applications must follow label instructions. This plant appears to be tolerant to picloram. Response to Cultural Methods: Small patches can be pulled or dug out of an area. Continually monitor for and remove new plants, and revegetate infested areas with competitive, beneficial plants. Response to Mechanical Methods: Mowing or cutting can keep hoary alyssum from going to seed, but long-term effects are unknown. Biological Control: There are no biocontrol agents available for hoary alyssum.

***The best invasive weed control is prevention!
Correct identification is required for
proper management.***



Craig Lamberson, Ferry County Weed Board inspects a hillside of Hoary alyssum.

Contact information for agencies that can provide additional information about weed identification & control in N.E. Washington.

Local Noxious Weed Control Board Offices

Ferry County NWCB
350 East Delaware Ave. #14
Republic, WA 99166
Phone: (509) 775-5210

Pend Oreille County NWCB
418 South Scott (P.O. Box 5085)
Newport, WA 99156
Phone: (509) 447-2401

Okanogan County NWCB
P.O. Box 791
Okanogan, WA 98840
Phone: (509) 422-7165

Stevens County NWCB
230 Williams Lake Road
Colville, WA 99114
Phone: (509) 684-7590

Local WSU Extension Offices

Ferry County Ext
350 East Delaware Ave. #9
Republic, WA 99166
Phone: (509) 775-5235

Pend Oreille County Ext
418 South Scott (P.O. Box 5045)
Newport, WA 99156
Phone: (509) 447-2401

Okanogan County Ext
P.O. Box 391
Okanogan, WA 98840
Phone: (509) 422-7245

Stevens County Ext
985 South Elm
Colville, WA 99114
Phone: (509) 684-2588

US Forest Service

Colville National Forest
765 South Main St.
Colville, WA 99114
Phone: (509) 684-7000
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville/>

Okanogan National Forest
1240 South Second Ave.
Okanogan, WA 98840
Phone: (509) 826-3275
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/oka/>

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Colville Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 111
Nespelem, WA 99155
Phone: 509/634-2338
Fax: 509/634-8751

Spokane Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 389
Wellpinit, WA 99040
Phone: 509/258-4561
Fax: 509/258-7542

*Extension Programs are available to all without discrimination.
Evidence of noncompliance may be reported to your local Extension Office.*

Hoary Alyssum

Information, Identification & Management

Berteroa incana

A NEW Weed Invader to Watch For!



Provided by the Integrated Weed Control Project of:



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◆ **Overview**

Hoary alyssum is a new weed on the State Noxious Weed list and is rapidly spreading in Northeastern and North central Washington. It is a member of the mustard family. This non-native, European plant was first collected in Washington in 1969 in Pend Oreille County. Currently it occurs in Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, and Spokane Counties and is a Class B weed in the state. Stems, leaves, and seed pods are covered with whitish-gray, branched hair that gives the plant a light green color. Hoary alyssum is adapted to dry soils and can outcompete desirable plants. It was generally found in waste places, overgrazed pastures, or in stressed meadows. *It also invades dryland and irrigated alfalfa and has recently been observed rapidly invading rangelands. So be on the watch.*

◆ **Economic Importance**

Livestock have been noted to become intoxicated after eating quantities of green or dried hoary alyssum plants (toxic dose has not been determined). Most poisoning occurs when bare stems are mixed in alfalfa hay. Animal death has only been observed in horses ingesting hay infested with 30 to 70% hoary alyssum. Also, the plant is noted to retain its toxicity for up to nine months.

Symptoms associated with severe intoxication include stiffness, fever, diarrhea, intravascular hemolysis, and hypovolemic shock. Premature birth or abortion may occur in pregnant livestock.



The lower seed pods can shatter while the top is still blooming

Photos courtesy of Dan Fagerlie

Cover drawing from: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. Vol. 2: 153.

◆ **Description and Variation**

Hoary alyssum is an annual to short-lived perennial, herbaceous plant that grows upright. Leaves are alternate and narrow, up to 2 inches long and 1/2 inch wide with smooth edges. Flowers grow at the tip with white petals, deeply two-cleft, and 3/16 inch long with seeds forming below them. Seed capsules are oval-shaped, flattened, 1/4 inch long and 1/16 inch wide.



Plants can vary in form considerably. They may be simple, slender, unbranched or branched, and even rounded to the appearance of a tumbleweed. This variation in form is likely due to site specific conditions such as soil type, nutrient availability, moisture levels, or competition with other plants for these limited resources.

◆ **Lifecycle**

Rosettes form in early spring and the plants bolt to produce a cluster of white flowers. Flowering and seed production is drawn out through the season. Flowers first begin forming in late spring and continue through summer to fall. Seed production occurs from July to October.



Rosette Stage



Seed Pods