

# “B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,  
but may have limited distribution in some counties

**Hairy whitetop**  
*Lepidium pubescens*

**Other common names:** Globepodded  
hoarycross

**USDA symbol:** CAPU6  
**ODA rating:** B



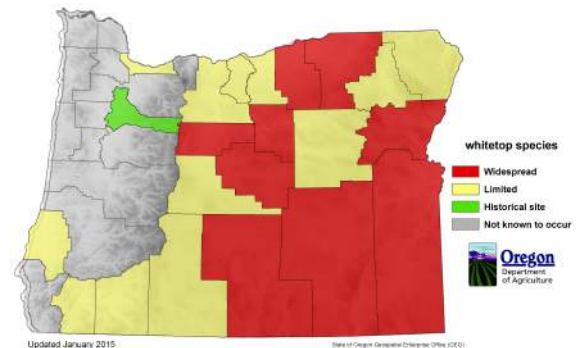
**Introduction:** Hairy whitetop is the lesser-known relative of hoary cress. It tends to inhabit areas with less grass competition and higher levels of alkali. Though it is less dominant than hoary cress, thousands of acres still persist in eastern Oregon.

**Distribution in Oregon:** The first documented site in Oregon was in 1923 in Klamath County. It can be found in all eastern Oregon counties today.

**Description:** Hairy whitetop is a perennial mustard, growing 1 to 1.5 feet tall. Leaves are three inches long and one inch wide, often smaller. Hairs sparse. Petals white, mostly two to three and tiny. Pods strongly inflated, spherical to ovoid, and covered with short hairs. Hairy whitetop can be difficult to distinguish from hoary cress in the vegetative state though the white hairs lend it a more silvery-grey color.

**Impacts:** Hairy whitetop is a common weed species on alkaline soils, but is not restricted to them. It forms dense patches that can completely dominate sites, restricting the growth of other species and will invade poorer grade rangeland. The species is not toxic to livestock but neither is it grazed. Although it is less common than *L. draba*, thousands of acres can still be found in Oregon.

**Biological controls:** No approved biological control agents are available at this time.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program  
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[www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx)

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