

Clallam County Noxious Weed Alert

Hoary Alyssum

Berteroa incana

Class B Noxious Weed **Control Required**

Toxic to livestock

Identification

- Can be annual, biennial, or a short lived perennial growing 1-3.5 feet tall.
- Plant is covered in small hairs, giving it a silver-gray color.
- Leaves at base of plant are oblong shaped with smooth edges. Stem leaves alternate and decrease in size up the stem.
- Flowers are white and bloom in clusters from the bottom up.
- Each flower is on a short stalk and has 4 petals with a deep cleft down the middle of each petal, giving petals a bunny-ear shape.
- Seed pods are round and semi-inflated, point upwards, and are attached on a short stalk to the stem.
- Hoary alyssum likes to grow in dry areas on sandy or gravelly soils such as overgrazed pastures, roadsides and waste areas that are often disturbed.

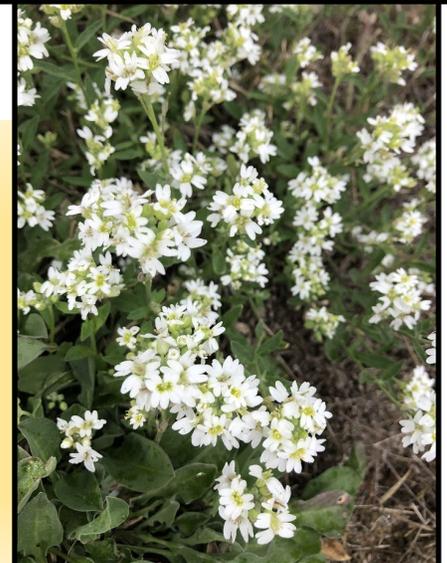


Impacts

Hoary alyssum is toxic to livestock when fresh or dried and can potentially cause animal poisoning or death. It invades pastures or disturbed areas and outcompetes native and forageable plants.

Reproduction

Reproduction is by seed. Seeds may be viable up to 10 years.



Look-a-likes

Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) is a common garden cultivar that was introduced from the western Mediterranean. It has white flower clusters similar to hoary alyssum, but petals are not notched like hoary alyssum petals. Sweet alyssum has soft stems and leaves that can easily be damaged, while hoary alyssum has woody-like stems and thicker leaves.



Sweet alyssum

Control Methods

General: Please bag and throw away all removed plant parts. Do not compost.

Control often takes a couple of years, so checking infestations multiple times each year is necessary.

Mechanical: Small infestations can be hand-pulled, especially when soils are moist. Mowing will not kill the plant, but can keep it from flowering and going to seed if done multiple times throughout the growing season. Tillage can kill hoary alyssum plants if cut below the root crown, but may support new germination of disturbed seeds.

Cultural: Promoting healthy pastures and revegetating after disturbance can help desirable plants outcompete hoary alyssum.

Chemical: Please follow all regulations and labels when applying herbicides. Always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when using herbicides. In some cases, such as treatment in or around standing water, a permit or special license is required. Adding a surfactant to the herbicide mix is also recommended, as it increases herbicide absorption into the plant. Do not cut or mow plants right before or for 2 weeks after application to allow the plant to absorb the herbicide. Please refer to the herbicide label for livestock and hay restrictions. Chemically treated plants can become more palatable to livestock when plants begin to wilt. Successful treatments will depend on the treatment location, site specifications, timing, and weather. **For more information about herbicides or site specific use, please contact the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board.**

***For best control of hoary alyssum, treat when plants are rapidly growing in the late winter or spring, but before flower buds develop.**



Clallam County
Noxious Weed Control Board

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