

Weed Alert

Hoary Alyssum (*Berteroa incana*)



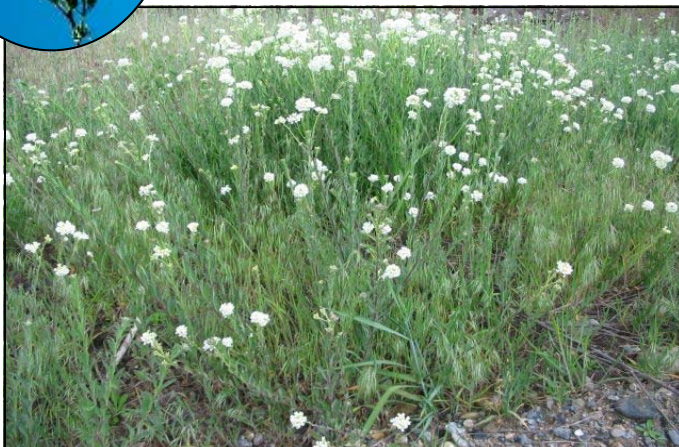
Why is it a problem?

Hoary alyssum is an aggressive non-native invasive species that is spreading throughout the West Kootenay region. Native to Europe, this plant has been introduced without natural predators in BC to keep it under control. It grows in pastures, road shoulders, railroads, agricultural fields and other disturbed areas.

Hoary alyssum is toxic to horses, causing swollen legs, laminitis and severe lameness. Consumption of large quantities can cause diarrhea, leading to dehydration, and can cause abortions in pregnant mares. The plant remains toxic after it is dried, and most poisonings are due to contaminated hay. Hoary alyssum is listed as noxious in BC.

Key identifying traits

- Biennial that grows to 70 cm tall
- White flowers on long slender stalks
- Leaves are grey-green in colour
 - Upper leaves are small and also clasped close to the stem
 - Entire plant is covered in star-shaped hairs.
 - Oval seedpods are flattened and held close to the stem



What can YOU do?!

Prevent...

- Learn to identify invasive plants
- Be careful of spreading this plant on vehicle and bike tires

Remove...

- Remove or control plants on your property
- Dig up or hand-pull small clumps before they go to seed, being careful to remove all plant parts
- If eradication is not possible, mow plants to prevent before they produce seeds to reduce spread
- For chemical options, obtain expert advice

To provide a better understanding of the extent of this species in the area, the CKIPC conducted an inventory of hoary alyssum during the summer of 2005. This species is particularly dense in the Fruitvale, Trail, and Harrop areas.

For more information, contact...
Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee
915 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC, V1L 4G7
(250) 352-1160
invasiveplants@uniserve.com
www.kootenayweeds.com