

Do not transport this weed into your pasture



Whitetop, aka Hoary Cress (*Lepidium draba*), San Juan County Fairground



Identification tips:

- Mature plants produce four-petaled white flowers arranged in a rounded or flat top in early to mid-summer.
- Grows to two or more feet tall.
- Leaves are alternately arranged and clasp the stems.
- Roots to three feet or more in depth and up to 30 feet horizontally.

Why be concerned:

- Found throughout the Fairgrounds, particularly in and near the sheep barn, the pig area, the compost pile, and the arena.
- Secretes chemicals that inhibit germination and growth of competing species.
- May taint dairy milk and may cause thyroid deficiency in livestock.
- Seeds transported in straw, hay, manure and on mowing equipment and tires.
- Spreads vigorously, forming extensive monocultures.
- Hoary cress is a Class C noxious weed selected for control in San Juan County.

Reproduction:

- Spreads rapidly by roots and root fragments and by seed.
- Develops wide and deep roots within three weeks of germination.
- Three-year minimum seed life, with two seed crops possible per season.

Control:

- Prevent infestation by asking for weed-free hay, straw and compost.
- Mow 2 or 3 times a year starting at bud stage and repeat at the next bud stage.
- Till at bud stage and repeat every 10 days during growing season.
- Fertilizing with a high-nitrogen fertilizer may help slow whitetop growth and encourage competitive grasses.

For more information, or if you think that you may have this noxious weed on your property, contact the San Juan County Noxious Weed Program at 376-3499 or info@sanjuanweeds.org.