

it sometimes spreads into cultivated fields.

History: Introduced into California from Turkey as an alfalfa seed contaminant and in packing materials around date offshoots. The only known population in the Northwest occurs on Bureau of Reclamation Land, Columbia Basin Project, Grant County, Washington. This infestation was first reported in 1956 along the lower Crab Creek drainage area and has since spread eastward toward Othello, where it now encompasses 20-25 sections of land.

Growth and Development: Camelthorn is a rhizomatous perennial that can give rise to aerial shoots up to 25 feet away from parent plant.

Reproduction: The species spreads by seed and rhizome.

References:

*State of California Detection Manual. 1982. Camelthorn.

*Parker, K. F. An Illustrated Guide to Arizona Weeds. University of Arizona Press. Tucson, AZ.

*Weeds of California.

Rationale for Listing:

1. Camelthorn has been shown to be a severe rangeland pest in other areas of the U.S. (El Paso County, Texas).
2. Washington's infestation has shown aggressive spread in our area and borders on a major state highway, which could provide for its rapid spread to other areas.
3. It is presently limited to a size which makes an eradication program feasible.