

HOARY ALYSSUM

Berteroa incana

Brassicaceae, the mustard family

Category: Containment

Unknown <https://bonivivesca/>

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Hoary alyssum spreads rapidly by long seasons of seed production, emerging in early spring and continuing to flower and produce seed until frost.
- Seeds can remain viable for up to 9 years.
- It is toxic to horses, causing fever and leg swelling.
- Infestations can reduce the quality and value of hay.

Description

- Annual to short-lived perennial that can grow up to 3 feet tall.
- Branched stems and leaves are grayish-green in color.
- Entire plant is covered with star-shaped hairs, giving a rough texture.
- Small, white flowers have 4 deeply divided petals giving the appearance of 8 petals.
- Oblong, grey-brown seeds are contained in hairy seed pods with short beaks on the end.

Introduction and Movement

- Hoary alyssum is native to Europe and was likely introduced as a seed contaminant in hay.
- Prefers dry conditions and inhabits disturbed areas such as roadsides, trails, and pastures.
- Seeds are easily spread by human and animal vectors such as vehicles, agriculture equipment, footwear, wildlife, and birds.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Hoary alyssum and eradicate infestations on your property.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOCK IT OFF!**

Sources

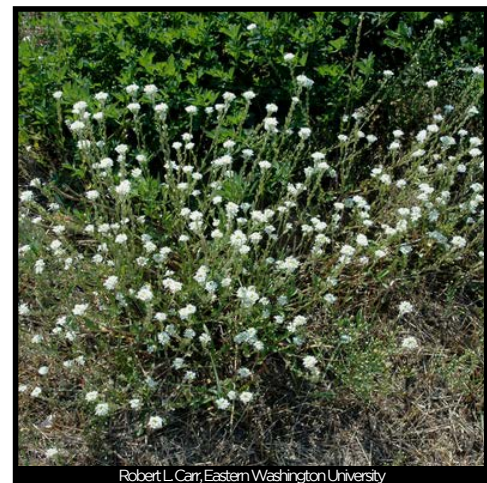
- Invasive Plant Atlas of the U.S.: <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5177>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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HOARY ALYSSUM DISTRIBUTION MAP

