

# Baby's breath

*Gypsophila paniculata* L

Pink Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Sweet scented, tiny star-shaped, white flowers composed of 5 sepals and 5 petals
- ❑ Used widely as an ornamental (floral arrangements)
- ❑ Leaves are opposite, lance-shaped and arise at swollen nodes characteristic of the Pink family
- ❑ Fruit is a small capsule containing 2 to 5 seeds
- ❑ Seeds are kidney-shaped and black
- ❑ Plants have many flowering branches growing in a rounded habit; can grow to 3 feet in height
- ❑ Branches and stems are a bluish-green color



## Biology and ecology

- A perennial reproducing from seeds
- Plants are capable of producing 14,000 seeds
- Seeds require little or no dormancy to germinate
- Baby's breath was introduced as an ornamental from Europe
- At maturity plants will break and tumble in the wind spreading seeds
- There are several annual garden varieties
- Grows in waste areas, roadsides, and pastures-seems to thrive in dry, sandy soils
- Widely distributed throughout the northern United States and Canada



## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; know your property; do not allow ornamentals to escape

*Biological* - No known biological control

*Cultural* - Once established will form dense stands that are difficult to control

*Mechanical* - It will not withstand cultivation; mowing before seed development will help control it but will not kill it

*Chemical* - Several effective at label rates



*Where found* - Found scattered throughout Stevens County heaviest concentrations around Kettle Falls and Northport areas