

# Hoary cress & Hairy whitetop

*Cardaria draba* (L) Desv & *Cardaria pubescens* (C.A. Mey.) Mustard Family

Hoary cress & Hairy whitetop are closely related species of mustards. All identifying traits apply to both, unless stated otherwise.

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flowers are small & white and form dense flat-topped clusters from May to early June
- ❑ Alternate, oblong to arrow-headed leaves clasp the stem; they range from  $\frac{3}{4}$ -3" long, have a bluish-green color and a waxy feel to them
- ❑ Fruit is heart-shaped (hoary c.) or globe-shaped (hairy w.) and tipped with a "beak"
- ❑ Seeds are oval and reddish-brown and come two per pod (hoary c.) or four per pod (hairy w.)



## Biology and ecology

- Long-lived perennials, reproducing by seed and underground horizontal roots (rhizomes)
- Introduced from central Europe & western Asia
- Will form a large dense spreading colonies if not controlled
- Thrive under a wide variety of soil conditions
- Bloom and set seed early in the growing season
- Problem in ditches, crops and pasture, once established it is very difficult to eradicate

## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; know your property; target small infestations aggressively

*Biological* - No known biological agents yet

*Cultural* - Good vegetative cover helps but does not prevent establishment or spread

*Mechanical* - Cutting/tilling will not achieve control due to the underground root system

*Chemical* - Several effective at label rates but may require repeat treatments to kill root systems; best before bloom or in the fall

*Where found* - Found in scattered locations throughout Stevens County, especially in abandoned crop land



Pods of hairy w. ↑  
hoary c. ↓



rosettes

