

Hoary Cress (*Cardaria draba* (L) Desv.)

Other names: Perennial peppergrass, white-top, white-weed

Provincial Weed Act Designation: *Noxious*

Hoary cress is a problem weed in the South East region of the MD of Rocky View. It is found mainly around the Delacour, Dalroy, Kathryn, and Keoma region in divisions five and six. This perennial plant has a spreading root system from which many aerial shoots are produced. The leaves of hoary cress are hairy and have seriated edges. The flowers are white and the seedpods are heart shaped. Hoary Cress is considered a noxious weed under the Weed Control Act because of how early the plant flowers and produces seed. Since this plant is known to flower as early as the beginning of May, control measures have to be undertaken very early in the growing season. A single plant established in the absence of competition has been reported to spread over an area 3.7 m in diameter during its first year of development.

Hoary cress is native to the Balkans, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Israel, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. It is widely introduced and is naturalized throughout Europe and all other continents. It was probably introduced by early European settlers, brought into the country as a reminder of home.

