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## WHITETOP MANAGEMENT TIPS

Whitetop, a member of the Mustard family, is a perennial forb with deep, rhizomatous roots. The white flowers have four petals and form dense clusters with a flat-top appearance. Leaves are lance to arrowhead-shaped, alternate on the stem and are covered with soft white hairs. Reproduction is vegetative as well as by seed. **Seed longevity is three years.** Plants are usually one to two feet tall. Whitetop is one of the first noxious weeds to appear in the spring. It can form large infestations and displace native vegetation, reduce grazing quality and create problems in crops.



**Management and control efforts must be planned for many consecutive years at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge from seeds or roots.**

## Effective control measures for the management of whitetop include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling):** Diligent hand pulling or grubbing can provide control of very small infestations of whitetop. Wear gloves when hand pulling. Hand pulling is not feasible on more established infestations.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control whitetop. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides in the rosette stage up to the early bolting stage.*

### Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1/5 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Telar XP:	1/5 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Cimarron Plus:	1/4 – 1/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Opensight:	2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Chaparral:	2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

### Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1 oz herbicide per acre.
*Telar XP:	1 oz herbicide per acre.
*Cimarron Plus:	1.25 – 2 oz herbicide per acre.
*Opensight:	3.3 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	3.3 oz herbicide per acre.

**NOTE:** Adding 2,4-D to your tank with any of the above herbicides may improve performance. Add at the rate of 1 – 2 quarts per acre for large sprayers or 1 – 2 ounces per gallon of water for backpack sprayers.

**NOTE:** Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

**\* denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

- 3. Cultural:** Maintaining healthy stands of competitive vegetation can reduce the invasion and spread of whitetop.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of whitetop is more effective when more than one strategy is used.