



903 N. Black Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 582-3265

### HOARY ALYSSUM MANAGEMENT TIPS

Hoary alyssum, a member of the Mustard family, is an annual, biennial or short-lived perennial forb with a taproot. The flowers are white with deeply notched petals on slender stalks. The leaves are grayish-green and are alternately arranged on the stem. Hoary alyssum usually grows one to three feet tall and reproduces by seed only. **The seeds can remain viable for up to nine years.** This plant decreases forage value in pastures and is toxic to horses causing laminitis, limb edema, diarrhea, intravascular hemolysis and hypovolemic shock.



Management and control efforts should focus on reducing seed production and 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.

## Effective control measures for the management of hoary alyssum include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling & digging):** Hand pulling and digging can be effective for small infestations, and are most effective when the soil is moist. Remove as much of the root as possible and place flowering plants in bags to prevent seed dispersal. Return to the area for several years to monitor for and remove any new plants. Wear gloves when pulling or digging plants.
- 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 hoary alyssum. **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.         |
| *Opensight:     | 1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.         |
| *Chaparral:     | 1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.         |
| *Cimarron Plus: | 1/5 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.         |
| 2,4-D Amine:    | 1 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water (rosette stage). |

### Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| *Escort XP:     | 1 oz herbicide per acre.                    |
| *Telar XP:      | 1 oz herbicide per acre.                    |
| *Opensight:     | 2 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.              |
| *Chaparral:     | 2 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.              |
| *Cimarron Plus: | 1 oz herbicide per acre.                    |
| 2,4-D Amine:    | 1 quart herbicide per acre (rosette stage). |

**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:** Planting desirable plant species to compete with hoary alyssum will reduce invasion potential and seed production.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of hoary alyssum is more effective when more than one strategy is used.