

## **Hoary Cress a.k.a. Whitetop**

Whitetop is a creeping perennial that reproduces both by seed (up to 4,800 seeds per plant) and a rhizomatous root system that can create monocultures that crowd out desirable and native plants. It is a List B species in Colorado requiring control and it is becoming a near emergency for San Miguel County. The abundance of moisture this year (2019) has given it ample opportunity to grow and spread and is a major concern.

**Do not let it go to seed.** Here are some helpful suggestions to achieve control:

- Herbicide treatments before seed production work the best.
- Repeatedly mowing throughout the season will help reduce the reserves in the roots.
- Hand pulling can be effective over time.
- Treatments should be completed before mid-June.
- Cutting and bagging the flower-heads will help to prevent the spread of seeds.

San Miguel County is willing to help landowners through the Cost Share program. San Miguel County will pay 50% of the chemical cost up to \$125 for treatment of Whitetop. Please go to the county website for a cost share application.

<https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/277/Cost-Share-Program>

Other helpful links.....

<https://cwma.org/weed-information/weed-list/hoary-cress-whitetop/>

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/hoary-cress>

Call Ron Mabry, San Miguel County Vegetation Manager for more information. 970-327-0399

