

# HOARY CRESS

*Cardaria draba*

## EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE.

Invasive weeds reduce land values, degrade natural areas and once established are very difficult to control. When found, the plants must be removed and the area monitored to prevent future spread. The Invasive Species Program (ISP) is a joint effort between TRCD and NTCD who collaborate with the *Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group (LTBWCG)*, a diverse group of agencies and community members dedicated to preventing and controlling invasive weed species in the Tahoe Basin. An early detection and rapid response network is coordinated by the LTBWCG to ensure that the entire basin is surveyed annually. TRCD offers one-on-one vegetation consultations for homeowners to help identify and control local invasive weed infestations and to find native plant alternatives. By being an extra set of eyes, educated homeowners increase our ability to detect new infestations in Tahoe.

## How did Hoary Cress get here?

Hoary cress was accidentally introduced to seaports on both coasts of the United States late in the 19th century, as a result of contaminated soil used as ballast for sailing ships. Currently, this invasive weed infests more than a quarter million acres of public and private land.



**Origin:** Mediterranean and Caspian Sea region  
**Noxious Weed List:** NV-YES, C-listed; CA-YES, B-listed  
**Habitat:** Meadows, stream banks, disturbed roadsides, ditches  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Flowering time:** May to June  
**Spread:** Creeping roots and root fragments  
**Height:** 1-2 ft  
**Stems:** Single stem gives rise to one flower cluster  
**Leaves:** Gray-green, lance-shaped leaves covered with fine white hairs, with two lobes that clasp and surround the stem.  
**Flowers:** Tiny 4-petaled flowers in dense clusters near ends of branches that give the plant a white flat top.  
**Flower color:** White



## Why is it a threat to the Tahoe Basin?

- ☹ Forms dense monocultures that compete with native plants for soil moisture
- ☹ Ability to reproduce by root fragments makes it difficult to remove
- ☹ Very aggressive weed that spreads rapidly and degrades wildlife habitat



## NOXIOUS WEED:

An invasive plant that is difficult to control, aggressive, and intrusive, as well as detrimental to important native species.

### Those listed as B-listed are:

- Established in scattered populations
- Control required in areas where populations aren't well established
- Not allowed in nurseries

### C-Listed:

- Widespread
- Control is at discretion of state quarantine officer
- Not allowed in nurseries

Do Not Disturb!  
TAHOE NATIVE



*Yarrow*

- ☺ **Flower:** Small 4-petaled flowers form flattened flower heads or dome-shaped clumps.
- ☺ **Flower color:** White or pink
- ☺ **Stem:** Hairy, single stem gives rise to clusters of flowers.
- ☺ **Leaves:** Hairy, feathery, very finely divided. Alternate and clasping the stem.

Call Us!  
NONNATIVE INVASIVE



*Hoary Cress*

- ☹ **Flower:** Tiny 4-petaled flowers in dense clusters form a white flat top.
- ☹ **Flower color:** White
- ☹ **Stem:** Single stem gives rise to one flower cluster
- ☹ **Leaves:** Gray-green, hairy, lance-shaped leaves clasping the stem.

**Think you spotted this invasive weed? Do not pull!**

- 1) Please contact your local Resource Conservation District. In California, call TRCD (530) 543-1501 ext. 113. In Nevada, call NTCD (775) 586-1610 ext. 28.
- 2) A member of the Invasive Species Program (ISP) staff will come identify the plant and record the weed's location to add to our Basin-wide map.
- 3) District staff will work with you to determine the best method of control that fits your property and the invasive weed(s) present. With your permission, the District will monitor the site after control measures are completed to ensure control efforts succeeded.
- 4) At your request, your local RCD also provides native and adapted plant consultations to homeowners free of charge. After evaluating your property, staff can provide plant plans for your yard and accompany you to a local nursery to help pick out native plants that will thrive on and add beauty to your landscape.

