

# "B" Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,  
but may have limited distribution in some counties

**Lens-podded whitetop**  
*Cardaria chalapensis*

**Other common names:** Lens-podded hoary  
cress

**USDA symbol:** CACH10  
**ODA rating:** B



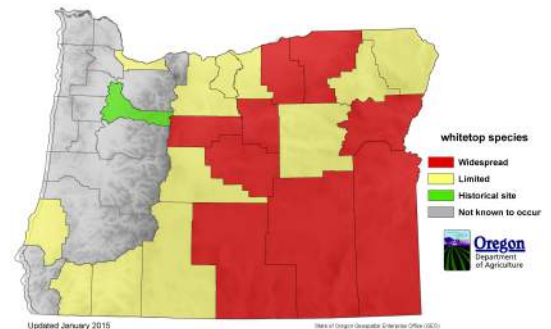
**Distribution in Oregon:** Lens-podded white top was first recorded in Oregon in 1925 in Wheeler County. This species is less common than *Cardaria draba* (whitetop or hoary cress), but thousands of acres can still be found in Oregon.

**Introduction:** Lens-podded whitetop is native to central Europe and western Asia. It has now spread to all continents and is particularly common in many parts of North America. A common method of dispersal is through movement of root fragments in mud carried by livestock, vehicles and equipment. It is also commonly spread by hay and forage such as cut alfalfa, and by flowing water.

**Description:** Lens-podded whitetop is a single-stemmed, erect perennial herb that grows less than knee high. The flowers are generally dense, white and typically flat-topped and the leaves are lance-shaped, up to four inches long and one inch wide and have a heart shaped base that clasps the stem. The seed pods are rounded in outline and nearly flat when mature. An infestation of this species is distinguishable by large white patches in fields.

**Impacts:** This very invasive weed forms dense patches that can completely dominate meadows and fields, restricting the growth of other species and degrading pastures. The species is not toxic to livestock, but it is not generally grazed either. It negatively affects native fauna and is a very strong competitor for nutrients and moisture. Lens-podded whitetop is a commonly found in alkaline soils, but is not restricted to them. It has deep, long-lived taproots that store sugars.

**Biological controls:** No approved biological control agents are available at this time.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program  
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-986-4621  
[www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx)

Photos by Joseph M. DiTomaso,  
USDavis, Bugwood.org