

*Cardaria draba*

# Whitetop

Other common names:  
hoary cress, pepperwort

Brassicaceae, the mustard family

Category: CONTAINMENT



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## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Perennial; grows up to 2 feet tall
- Root system of vertical and horizontal roots that vigorously produce new shoots at irregular intervals
- Leaves are blue-green, alternate, and lance shaped
- Upper leaves have 2 lobes clasping the stem; lower leaves are stalked
- Leaf surface is sparsely to densely hairy; leaf margins may be either smooth or toothed
- Flowers are white, 4-petaled, and formed in clusters at the end of each stem, which gives the plant a white, flat-topped look
- Fruits are heart-shaped seed pods that contain 2 reddish brown seeds

## Background

- Native to Eurasia
- Inhabits disturbed areas, non-crop areas, crops, rangelands, and pastures
- Reproduces by creeping roots, root fragments, and seeds

Photo Credit:

J.M. DiTomaso, The Regents of the University of California

# Hoary Cress (Whitetop)

*Cardaria draba*

## Present

