

Hoary Alyssum (*Betseroa incana*)

HA BERT INC

Annual to short-lived perennial. Hoary alyssum grows erect to 0.7 metres tall and has white flowers on long slender stalks.



Distribution

Found scattered throughout the Southern Interior but fairly abundant in the North Thompson

Please report small, isolated sites.

Quick ID

White flowers with deeply notched petals.

The entire plant is covered with star shaped hairs.

Upper leaves are elliptic and clasp stem.

Oval seedpods are 5-8 mm long, somewhat flattened and held close to the stem.

“Look-Alike” Species

Field Chickweed, *Cerastium arvense*, is a native perennial found in subalpine meadows and rocky hillsides. It has opposite, slender, stemless leaves and white flowers with five, deeply lobed petals.



Interesting Facts:

Hoary alyssum is toxic to horses, and can cause fever, edema, and laminitis. Sensitivity varies when small or single doses are ingested, and death has only been reported in horses that have consumed hay infested with a large proportion (30-70%) of Hoary alyssum.

Manual Treatment: Small populations are killed by hand pulling or hoeing. Mowing can prevent seed production.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: Has small (5-8 mm in length), white flowers with deeply notched petals that are supported on slender stalks. Sepals are hairy and transient.

Leaves and Stems: The whole plant is covered in star-shaped hairs that are rough to touch, with grey leaves that clasp closely to the stem.

Seeds: Oval seedpods are chambered and held close to the stem with each chamber containing 5-7 black seeds.

Reproduction and Dispersal: Hoary alyssum spreads rapidly through a long season of seed production. Each plant flowers and produces a large number of seeds between early summer and fall up to frost. Seeds disperse as a contaminant in hay and are spread by vehicles, equipment, footwear, wildlife, and birds.

Habitat Preference: Most common on sandy or gravelly soils, hoary alyssum establishes in dry, disturbed habitats, such as roadsides and railway embankments. Hoary alyssum invades dry land, irrigated alfalfa fields, and rangelands, tending to increase in forage crops following periods of drought or winterkill, thus reducing hay quality and value.

