

Invasive Species of Truckee Meadows

Tall Whitetop *Lepidium laifolium*



Identification

Young tall whitetop can be identified by its basal growth of thick, light green leaves. The mature plant is recognized by its alternate broadleaves, woody lower stems, and small, white flowers that bloom in cone shaped clusters on the tips of its tall stems.



Reproduction

Tall Whitetop seeds prolifically and early in the season. One plant produces thousands of seeds which are spread by wind, water, wildlife, and humans. It also reproduces vegetatively by its starch storing roots called rhizomes. These structures run down to 10 feet deep and even a one inch piece can produce a new plant.



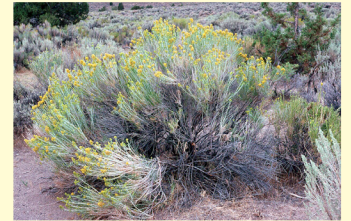
Plant These Native Alternatives:



Great Basin Wild Rye
(*Leymus cinereus*)



Penstemon spp.



Rubber rabbitbrush
(*Ericameria nauseosa*)



Nettleleaf giant hyssop
(*Agastache urticifolia*)

Other alternatives:

- Bigleaf lupine
(*Lupinus polyphyllus*)
- Desert needlegrass
(*Stipa speciosa*)
- Big sagebrush
(*Artemisia tridentata*)

For more information and resources, check out this link:



This could mean hand digging rhizomes twice in a season for small stands. For larger infestations, combined treatments of mowing and herbicide are effective.

Always read and follow directions listed on the herbicide label.



Management

Early detection and removal is key, as control often requires several years of treatment and monitoring. A combination of techniques is most effective when dealing with tall whitetop.