



Fact Sheet 98-79

# WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

## Tall Whitetop

Alias: *Lepidium latifolium*

**T**all whitetop, or perennial pepperweed, is a native of southern Europe and western Asia. It has naturalized in many parts of the United States, including Nevada. Many western states have declared it a noxious weed. This perennial grows in waste places, wet areas, ditches, roadsides, and croplands, including alfalfa fields. It is a problem in hay bales because it does not cure. The robust, spreading roots and numerous seeds make control difficult to impossible. Mechanical measures such as disking or mowing spread the plant. Chemical control treatments must be timed properly and applied only after last season's debris is removed or the effort is wasted. Tall whitetop is listed as a noxious weed by Nevada Administrative Code.



*The robust, spreading roots and numerous seeds of this perennial make control difficult to impossible. It is found in waste places, wet areas, roadsides, ditches and croplands, including alfalfa fields.*

### Distinguishing features:

- ◆ Grows 1 to 3 feet tall. Leaves and stems are covered with a waxy layer.
- ◆ Flowers are small and white. However, the entire top of the plant blooms in dense clusters in late spring. There may be sporadic blooms on young plants through fall.
- ◆ Bright green leaves are blade-shaped and the basal leaves are larger than the upper leaves.

### Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Remove all weed seeds and plant parts from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area.
- ◆ Monitor ornamental plantings, stream banks, and wetlands. Dispose of the seeds, shoots, and roots in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may also be available to kill this plant.
- ◆ Do not collect this plant as a dried flower for arrangements. This will spread seed wherever it is taken.

### Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

### For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension  
775-784-1334;

Nevada Division of Agriculture  
Bureau of Plant Industry,  
775-688-1180; or

Your local Weed District manager or  
Conservation District: