



# Hoary False Madwort

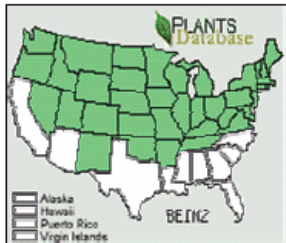
*Berteroa incana* (L.) DC

**Common Names:** hoary false madwort, hoary alyssum, hoary false alyssum

**Native Origin:** Europe

**Description:** An annual, biennial, or perennial in the mustard family (*Brassicaceae*) growing 1 to 3 feet tall. The name "hoary" indicates many rough hairs on stems, leaves, and seed pods. Stems are gray-green and hairy with many branches near the top. Alternate leaves are gray-green, hairy, alternate, oblong, narrow, 1/2 to 3 inches long, with smooth edges. White flowers with 4 deeply divided petals are produced in long raceme. Seed pods are hairy, swollen, and oblong with short beaks on the end. Oblong seeds are rough, dull gray-brown. It reproduces and spreads by seeds.

**Habitat:** It grows on sandy soils along roadsides, railroad tracks, disturbed lands, waste areas, meadows, and pastures. It is particularly adapted to dry conditions such as occur on sandy or gravelly soils. This species is cool season forb emerges in late April, flowers in June, continues growing and producing seed in September.



**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CO and WY.

**Ecological Impacts:** Spreads rapidly due to the high number of seeds per plant. The plant emerges early in spring and continues to flower and produce seed until frost. It can cause toxicity to horses. ([www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu))



### Control and Management:

- **Manual-** hand pulling or digging can be very effective for small infestations but should be done before flowering.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Follow label and state requirements.

**References:** [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org), <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien), [www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/ansci/range/eb69-13.htm](http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/ansci/range/eb69-13.htm), [www.ag.uiuc.edu/~vista/html\\_pubs/WEEDS/87.html](http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~vista/html_pubs/WEEDS/87.html), [www.plantimag.de/dat/0306008.html](http://www.plantimag.de/dat/0306008.html), <http://okanogancounty.org/nw/Class%20BDesignate.htm#HOARY%20ALYSSUM>