

Frequently Asked Questions - Noxious Whitetop Weed Spraying

What is “Whitetop”?

Whitetop (*Lepidium draba*) is a harmless looking flowering plant from the mustard family. Whitetop is spread via seed and blooms throughout the valley in the late spring/early summer months. Harmless as it appears, Whitetop will wipe out all other vegetation in its path if not controlled. Whitetop is also toxic to cattle, making it a formattable opponent in this ranching community.

Noxious Weed Spraying

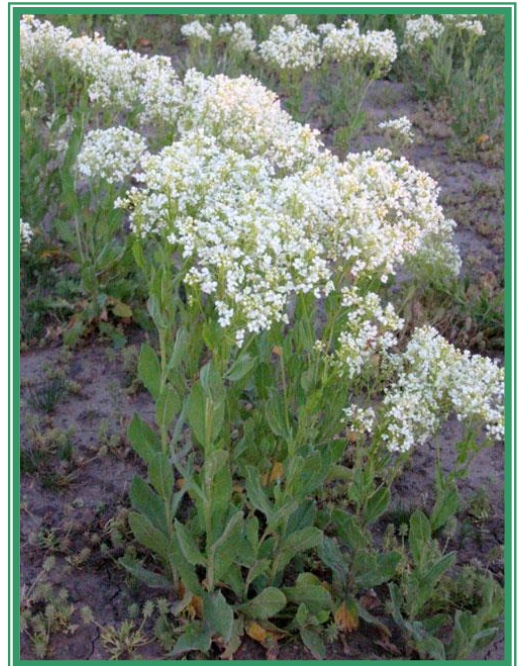
The City of Steamboat Springs contracts out for the spraying of Whitetop annually. Spraying generally begins around the first week of June each year, as weather permits. Spraying is done throughout town in the City’s Rights-of-Way and takes approximately 30 days to complete.

What’s the deal with the blue color?

Contractors use a harmless blue dye to mark where the herbicide has been sprayed. The blue color does disappear in a day or two.

Can the herbicide harm my children or pets? Once the herbicide has dried, it is okay for people and pets to walk through the sprayed area if necessary. Drying time is dependent upon weather but is usually dry within an hour or two. As a precaution, people and pets should avoid newly sprayed areas for 24 hours following application if able.

How long does it take for the weeds to die? Depending on the weed, you will usually see some color change within a week. Complete browning of the weed normally takes 2-3 weeks.



If you have any other questions or concerns regarding the City’s Noxious Weed Control Program, please do not hesitate to contact the City’s Streets Division at 879-1809.