

# Stop

# The Invasion



Photograph courtesy of  
Richard Old, XID Services, Inc.,  
Bugwood.org

## Common Crupina

*Crupina vulgaris*

Report  
Sightings

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[invasivespecies.wa.gov](http://invasivespecies.wa.gov)

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Photograph courtesy of Utah State University Archive, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

### What is it?

Crupina is an erect plant that grows to be 1-3 feet tall. It can grow in a wide range of conditions. Dense stands of common crupina can out-compete native plants and decrease foliage for livestock. It is native to southern Europe.

### Is it here yet?

Yes, a single infestation of common crupina has been documented in the Lake Chelan area. A different variety has been found in Idaho, Oregon, and California.

### Why should I care?

Common crupina can be highly competitive, dominating sites and reducing biodiversity. It also can increase the risk of soil erosion. Spines on a plant's stem and leaves are not palatable to livestock, so when common crupina forms dense stands in grazing areas, they decrease the amount foliage for livestock and reduce the ability of the land to host livestock.

### What should I do if I find it?

Do not purchase, plant, or trade this species. Contact your county noxious weed coordinator at [www.nwcb.wa.gov/links.htm](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/links.htm). Report online at [www.InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov/report.shtml](http://www.InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov/report.shtml).

### How can we stop it

Clean vehicles, equipment, personal gear, and animals that have traveled through known infested areas. Common crupina is on Washington's Terrestrial Noxious Weed Seed and Plant Quarantine list, meaning it is prohibited to transport, buy, sell, offer for sale, or distribute common crupina plants, plant parts, or seeds (Washington Administrative Code 16-752-610). Common crupina is listed as a Class A noxious weed in Washington, meaning its eradication is required through efforts such as hand-pulling or hoeing. Importation and interstate transport of common crupina is further regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the federal Noxious Weed list (7 CFR 360).



Photograph courtesy of USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

## What are its characteristics?

- Erect winter annuals growing 1-3 feet tall, which overwinter as a rosette.
- Cotyledons (the seed leaf of the embryo of a plant) are large, thick, shiny, and dark green, with a prominent mid-rib that may be purple to red.
- Alternate leaves are divided finely into lace-like leaflets. Leaves and stems are covered in short, stiff spines.
- A plant may have up to 40 lavender to purple flower heads, each about a .5-inch long.

## Where do I get more information?

- Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health: [www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=4414](http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=4414)
- King County: [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/common-crupina.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/common-crupina.aspx)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CRVU2>
- Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board:
  - <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/detail.asp?weed=40>
  - [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/siteFiles/Crupina\\_vulgaris.pdf](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/siteFiles/Crupina_vulgaris.pdf)

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