

Common crupina

Colorado Department of
Agriculture

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Key ID Points

1. Ranges from 1-3 ft. tall.
2. Pinkish-purple flowers surrounded by stiff bracts.
3. Stiff spines on leaf edges.

Common crupina Identification and Management



Identification and Impacts

Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*) is an erect winter annual growing one to three feet in height. The leaves are alternate, finely dissected, and develop short, stiff spines along the edges. Flowers are pink to purple in color and grow one to two on a branch with each plant having several branches and up to 40 flowering heads per plant. Flowers protrude through a whorl of stiff bracts. Seeds are 1/8 to 1/4 inch long with barbed hairs at one end. Common crupina spreads by seed by attaching itself to livestock, wildlife, and people and floating down rivers and streams.

Common crupina is adapted to a wide range of soil and growing conditions. It is a common invader of disturbed grasslands, rangeland and open forest lands and has not yet been identified in Colorado. Common crupina impacts wildlife and plant communities by outcompeting native plants and reducing biodiversity. It invades hay fields and grass seed fields and its seed can contaminate forage crops (such as hay), thus reducing their value.

The key to effective control of common crupina is preventing infestations from occurring. Once establishment of the plant has occurred, there are various control methods to consider for eradication. Hand pulling or hoeing of plants prior to flower and seed production can be an effective control method for small populations. Use of certain herbicides as a control method can be effective as well depending on site ecology. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology. The soil seed longevity of common crupina is three years. The site must be monitored for at least four years after the last flowering adult plants have been eliminated and treatments repeated when necessary.

Common crupina is designated as a "List A" species on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be eradicated wherever found in the State. For more information visit www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



Clockwise from lower left, photos © Utah State University Archives; Steve Dewey, Utah State University; Utah State University Archives; Steve Dewey, Utah State University; and USDA APHIS PPQ Archive.

Crupina vulgaris

**CULTURAL**

Establishment of selected grasses can be an effective cultural control of common crupina. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service for seed mix recommendations. Maintain healthy pastures and prevent bare spots caused by overgrazing. Healthy plant communities can deter common crupina from establishing.

**BIOLOGICAL**

Biocontrol agents are not included in the prescribed management plans by the State for List A species. Eradication is the management objective of all List A's. No biocontrol agent for common crupina is available. For information on biocontrol in Colorado, please contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

**MECHANICAL**

Hand pull or dig when soil is moist and be certain to pull all the roots, only when infestations are small. It is important to bag specimens carefully so as to not scatter seeds if the plant is flowering. Seeds are small and can adhere to clothing and tools and these must be cleaned before using again.

Integrated Weed Management:

Preventing the establishment of this plant in Colorado is crucial since it is not yet known to exist in the state. Eradication requires intensive and persistent control efforts to effectively eliminate weed infestations and soil seed reserves. Using an integrated weed management approach if infestations occur can be effective in eradicating common crupina.

Common crupina

HERBICIDES

The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. *Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gallons per acre. Please read label for exact rates. The herbicide label is the LAW!*

Herbicide	Rate	Application Timing
Picloram (Tordon/Picloram 22K - Restricted use pesticide)	1 pint/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply at rosette growth stage or when adequate soil moisture and plants are actively growing. (Early spring to late summer depending on conditions) DO NOT use near trees, desirable shrubs, water, or high water table.
Metsulfuron methyl + Chlorsulfuron (Cimarron X-tra)	2 oz. product/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply at rosette to bolting growth stages. (Early spring to early summer)
Metsulfuron (Escort XP)	1 oz. product/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply at rosette to bolting growth stages. (Early spring to early summer)
Additional herbicide recommendations for other species can be found at: www.colorado.gov/agconservation/CSUHerbicideRecommendations.pdf		

Top two photos, © Kelly Uhing, Colorado Department of Agriculture, bottom photo: USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org.