

Medusahead

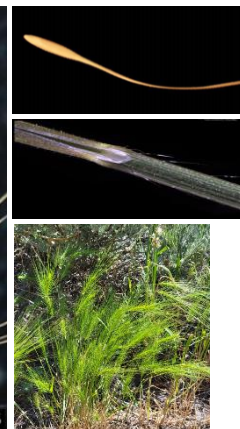
Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)

Medusahead is an invasive winter annual grass. It emerges in the late fall, overwinters, and emerges in the early spring. It negatively impacts pasture and rangelands. It is capable of excluding desirable native species, and reducing livestock forage by up to 70%. Similar to cheatgrass, medusahead can increase wildfire frequency and intensity. Awns can lead to physical injury in grazing animals while seeds attach readily to clothing, animals, and equipment.

Identification

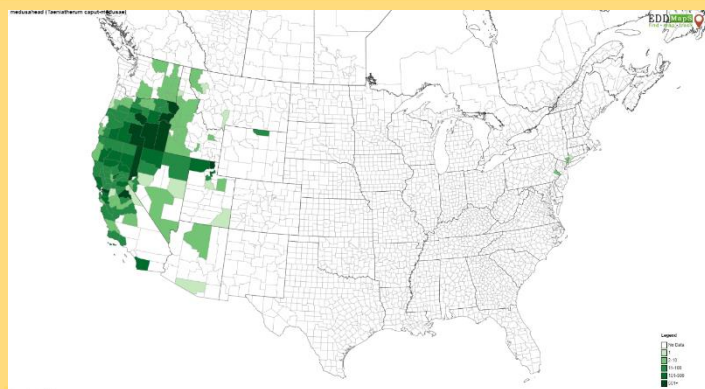
Medusahead is bright green in the spring and turns brown in early summer. It can grow to 6-24 inches tall and has slightly hairy, rolled leaf blades. Medusahead seeds have long awns. The seeds fall out in late summer, but awn-like glumes of two lengths (shorter at the base and longer at the top) persist through the winter.

If you find medusahead, please report it through EDDMapS, your local Weed and Pest, or University extension office.



Treatment

Rejuvra™ provides good control of medusahead. In order to eradicate the species, multiple treatments may be needed to completely deplete the seed bank. Treatment has also shown good recovery of native perennial grasses.



Medusahead is only confirmed in Sheridan County

