



Medusahead  
*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*



05-0110-11



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(*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act requires every landowner to **eradicate this weed** wherever it is found on his or her property. The Colorado Department of Transportation controls these weeds on its right-of-way.

Medusahead is a winter annual grass that can grow 6 to 24 inches tall. Stems are wiry and slender containing a few short leaves. The leaf blades are narrow and rolled in the stalk. The yellowish-green sheen of dense stands makes the plant highly visible after other annual grasses turn brown. This weed has a fibrous root system that develops quickly, allowing it to extract moisture deep in the soil before most perennials.

An aggressive management approach, combining several control methods (mechanical, herbicides, and burning) has proven to be the most effective dealing with this weed. More details about this species and herbicides to control it are available online at <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds>.

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