

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

Creeping yellow cress
Rorippa sylvestris

Other common names: yellow field cress, keek, creeping field cress, creeping yellow cress

USDA symbol: ROSY
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Native to Europe and Asia and now widely distributed throughout the U.S. Creeping yellow cress is predominantly a weed of high value agricultural crops such as bulb production, nursery stock and vegetable production.

Distribution in Oregon: It has been found in selected agriculture crops produced in several northern Oregon Counties.

Description: Creeping yellow cress is a perennial forb growing up to 20 inches tall. Leaves are 2 to 4 inches long, pinnately divided into narrow, sharply toothed lobes. Flowers are yellow with four small, rounded, spatula-shaped petals displayed on branching stems in elongated clusters. Flowering occurs in June through August. Creeping yellow cress initially develops a taproot that later extend outward developing an extensive system of laterally creeping rhizomes. New shoots develop from these lateral roots. Rhizome fragments created by tillage develop into new plants spreading the infestation around the field. Fruit is a slender green pod up to 1/2 inch long, angled out and somewhat up from the stalk.

Impacts: Yellow cress is a common pest of Dutch ornamental bulb production areas. This plant can reduce bulb crop value and marketability. The root fragments also find their way into nursery stock containers and is challenging to control. In wildlands, it invades wetlands, and some evidence suggests that this species may be allelopathic. The creeping rhizomes create thick mats, completely smothering desirable vegetation.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents available.

