

**Plant:** Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)

**This is not a state listed noxious weed.**

**Identification:** Medusahead, is a nonnative, winter annual grass that can grow up to 2 feet tall. It typically germinates in the fall, and shoots up in spring to maturity and seeds to reproduce. The seeds are a dense spike, with long awns somewhat resembling medusas head. Plants have open leaf sheaths which may be covered with soft short hairs. Leaves are rolled while in bud and later are flat. Medusahead thrives on soils with a high content of clay and where deep soil moisture is available late growing season. It will also grow on loamy soils and is less of an invader but can be found on well-drained, sandier soils.

**Defense:** Individual plants and small infestations can be effectively hand-pulled or removed with a hoe. Remove plants when they are large enough to identify but before they have set seed. There are herbicides that work well for Medusahead, but challenge with herbicide use is to selectively control medusahead without damaging desirable plants. Contact your local county weeds superintendent for a management plan.

**Always read and understand the label and restrictions of any pesticide you are using. The label is the law.**

