

THE ENEMY: Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*) is a winter annual that invades range, pastures, forested areas, and minimal disturbed lands. Like many This plant is found in the eastern end of Pine Valley toward Oxbow, that we know of its location. The plants cotyledons are very fleshy and have a very distinct red mid-vein. Once the rosettes have established they appear like many of the Asteraceae family and have deeply lobed leaves that are pinnately formed. The plant generally sends up one or two vegetative stems that can reach a height of 3 feet. Each stem will have numerous branches off of which will produce up to 5 terminal flowers of purple pedals. The seeds produced by this plant have a formation of stiff bristles around the base of the seed giving the seed the appearance of a dry fly used for fishing.

THE STRATEGY: As this is fall germinating plant it out competes many of the native species. It also grows in the open-ground areas that are normally left for absorption of water and sunlight. This invading plant is great at invading south facing slopes. As with many Asteraceae species this plant is not generally foraged by wildlife or livestock, thus it grows undisturbed. As an aggressive it replaces desirable vegetation for livestock grazing. With the amount of bristles along the base of the stem allows the seed to be slightly blown in the wind as well as ties up into fur of animals and spread long distances.

THE DEFENSE: Proper identification is key to controlling this plant. As this is a state and federally listed noxious weed please call your local weed authority to verify its identity and to ensure control methods. Mechanical control is practical but not feasible when more than just few plants are found. There are no biological control insects available for this species which leaves us to the utilization of herbicides. Products of choice would include Tordon 22k - 1 qt/ac, Milestone -7oz/ac, or Opensight - 3.3 oz/ac. Depending on the location, Telar XP - 10z/ac can be effective. A good surfactant should be utilized. Preferred timing should be in spring or during the budding stage of the plant, which is when most of the plants can be seen.