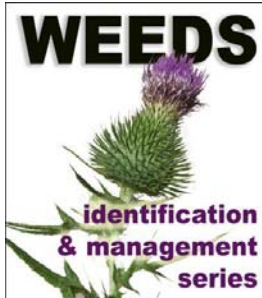




## EXTENSION

College of Agriculture,  
Biotechnology & Natural Resources

Fact Sheet-10-25



# A Northern Nevada Homeowner's Guide to Identifying and Managing Flixweed

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**Other common names:** Tansy mustard, herb sophia

**Scientific name:** *Descurainia sophia*

**Family:** Brassicaceae

**Description:** A bushy, much-branched plant that grows up to 2 or more feet tall, flixweed blooms early in the spring.

**Leaves:** The leaves are finely divided and hairy. The hairs are branched.

**Stems:** Stems are upright and branched. Plants grow in a rosette (ground-hugging form, see photo below right) until the flowering stems start growing.

**Flowers:** Tiny and yellow with four petals; arranged in branched structures. Blooms from early spring to summer.

**Seeds:** Produces narrow seed pods  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long.

**Roots:** Has a short taproot.

**Native to:** Europe; naturalized in much of the United States

**Where it grows:** Gardens, landscaped areas, rangeland, vacant lots, roadsides and other disturbed or unmanaged sites

**Life cycle:** Winter annual (sprouts in fall or early winter), summer annual (sprouts in spring or summer), sometimes biennial (flowers and dies in the second year of growth)

**Reproduction:** Reproduces by seed



Typical plant growing in disturbed site.



Rosettes have finely divided leaves.

**Control methods:** Flixweed is a prolific seed-producer, and can build up a reserve of seed in the soil. The seeds survive for years in the soil. Plants are most easily removed when they are small rosettes (ground-hugging forms). Control relies on preventing the production of seed.

**Mechanical:** Dig, hoe or pull young plants. Use mechanical control methods prior to formation of flowers and seeds. Mow to prevent flowering and production of seed.

**Cultural:** Plant desirable vegetation to compete with tumble mustard; minimize soil disturbance.

**Biological:** Do not graze. Eating large quantities of flowers can be toxic to livestock, and can result in death.

**Chemical:** Apply broadleaf-selective herbicides on young plants.

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The leaves are fern-like in appearance.



Flowers are tiny, yellow and produce long, slender seed pods.



The flower are arranged in a branched structure.

(All photos by S. Donaldson)

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