INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Common crupina
(*Crupina vulgaris*)

Have You Seen This Plant?

Description

- Winter annual herb that is native to parts of Europe, Asia, and North Africa.
- Produces a slender, ridged stem that grows up to 1.2 m tall.
- Stem is many branched with alternate leaves that are finely dissected into thin, single or double lobes with rough edges.
- Leaves are up to 7 cm long and become increasingly smaller towards the stem apex.
- Seedlings have two large, rounded leaves that are shiny in appearance and have a prominent purplish-red midvein.
- Flowers are small, cylindrical, pink to purple and appear on branch tips in clusters of 1 to 5.
- Seeds are cone shaped, 0.3 – 0.6 cm long, medium brown and covered in fine hairs which give them a velvety appearance. The top of each seed has a pappus of dark, spreading bristles.

Mature common crupina
Photo: Kryzsztof Ziarnek

Primary Threats: Rapidly forms dense stands in grasslands and forests which outcompetes native plants, reduces livestock forage, and increases soil erosion. Contaminates hay and forage crops, significantly reducing their quality and value.

Common crupina seedling
Photo: Utah State University

Biology & Spread

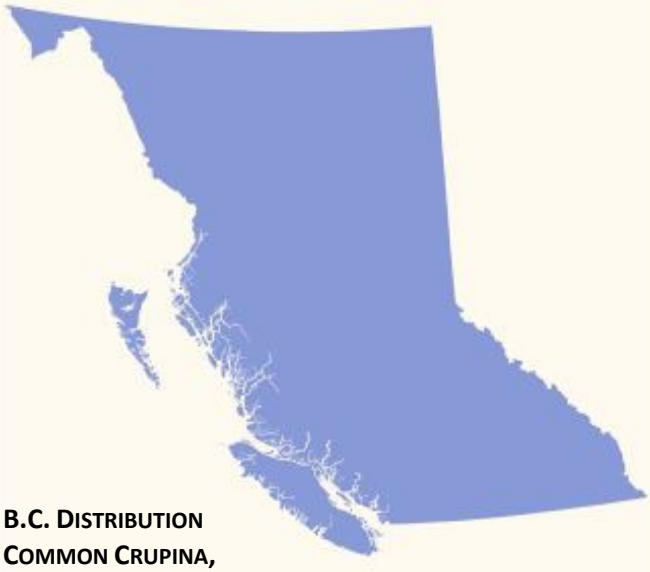
- Reproduction occurs exclusively via seed.
- Seeds germinate in fall/winter and bolt in spring/summer. Seeds are dispersed by June or early July.
- Spread occurs by seeds attaching to humans, animals, and vehicles, or by floating down streams.
- Can also spread through contaminated seed mixes, hay, machinery, and soil.

For more information:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants

BRITISH COLUMBIA

January 2026

Common Crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*)



B.C. Distribution
Common Crupina,
January 2026

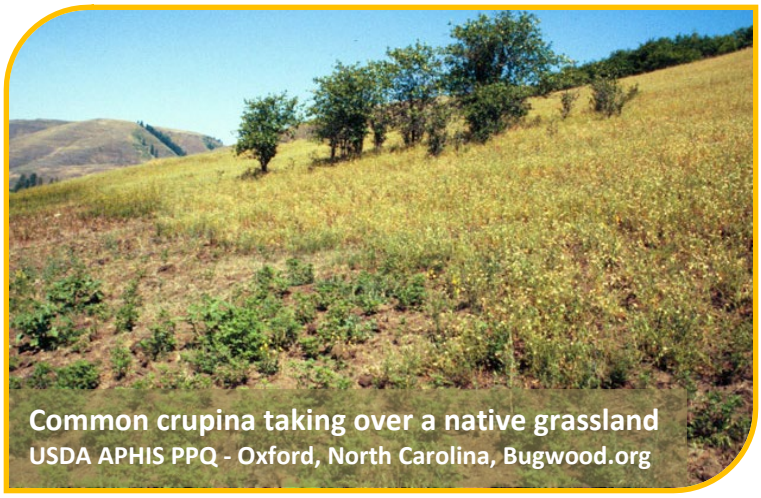
Habitat

- Common crupina is adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions including pastures, rangelands, roadsides, open forests, and gravel pits.
- Prefers low-moisture rocky soils, and exposed, south-facing slopes.

Distribution & Status

- Federally regulated as a pest under the *Plant Protection Act* and as a Prohibited Noxious Weed under the *Seeds Act.*
- Not yet known to occur in BC but is present in areas in the north-western United States.
- Management goal is preventing establishment in BC.

Flower close-up
Photo: Kryzsztof Ziarnek



Common crupina taking over a native grassland
USDA APHIS PPQ - Oxford, North Carolina, Bugwood.org

Report Invasive Species

Download the App!

www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

What Can You Do?

- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Use** clean hay, grain, and straw
- **Maintain** healthy and diverse pastures
- **Use** clean, certified seed mixes
- **Clean** equipment when moving from site to site
- **Treat** common crupina before disturbing a site with digging, mowing, or machinery

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