

SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources



INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH LIST

Taeniatherum canput-medusae

Medusahead rye

Blooms May to June.

Grows six to 18 inches tall.

Branching weak stems.

Spiked inflorescences.

The seed head a layered look.

Awns dry and twist, in all directions.



FLOWER

John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy,
Bugwood.org



PLANT

Steve Dewey, Utah State University,
Bugwood.org

IMPACTS

Out-competes other grasses.

Rich in silica and unpalatable in late spring.

Invaded land becomes almost worthless, for native animals or livestock.

Stiff awns and hard florets can injure eyes and mouths of grazing animals.

Changes the moisture dynamics of the soil.

Greatly reduces seed germination of other species.

Creates fuel for wildfires.



Infestation

John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy,
Bugwood.org
For Additional Photos [Control/click](#)

<http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/subthumb.cfm?sub=6507>

IF YOU FIND THIS PLANT PLEASE REPORT IT TO YOUR LOCAL COUNTY WEED AND PEST SUPERVISOR OR THE SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES (605) 773-3796 OR ONLINE AT www.eddmaps.org/mrwc.