



Woolly Cup Grass

Eriochloa villosa
(Thunb.) Kunth

Woolly cup grass is an invasive plant that can compete with crops, especially corn and soybean, and reduces crop yield. It has become well established in the midwest United States where it is an economic concern for corn and soybean farmers. It is more challenging to control than other annual grasses. Targeted herbicide applications may be required to keep the weed in check.

- **A tall, annual grass native to Asia**
- **Affects corn and soybean crops**
- **Difficult to control**
- **Spreads with farm equipment, seed and grain**
- **Prohibited in seed under the *Seeds Act***

Woolly cup grass inflorescence (Romain Néron, MAPAQ)

Where it's found

Woolly cup grass grows in cultivated fields, pastures and disturbed areas along fences, ditches and roadsides.

Woolly cup grass is native to Asia and was introduced to the U.S. around the 1950s. To date in Canada, it has been confined to four small sites in Quebec.

What it looks like

To the untrained eye, this invasive plant can look a lot like common grasses that grow in Canada.

Woolly cup grass gets its name from the hair that covers many parts of the plant. It is a tall (1-2 m) annual grass with dark green and densely hairy leaves that have a velvety feel. Only one edge of the leaf blade is typically crinkled and the flowering branches are one-sided.

How it spreads

Woolly cup grass seed commonly spreads with farm equipment and as a contaminant of seed and grain of corn, soybean and other cereals such as millet and sorghum.

Legislation

Woolly cup grass is listed as a prohibited noxious weed in the *Weed Seeds Order* under the *Seeds Act*. Its presence in domestic and imported seed for planting is prohibited.

Reporting this invasive plant should be done through your local CFIA office. For a list of offices please call 1-800-442-2342 or visit the the CFIA website at: www.inspection.gc.ca.

Invasive plants are plant species that spread when introduced outside of their natural past or present distribution and cause serious and often irreversible damage to Canada's ecosystems, economy and society.



A - Woolly cup grass
(Romain Néron, MAPAQ)



B - Woolly cup grass inflorescence branch (Romain Néron, MAPAQ)



C - Woolly cup grass infesting the edge of a corn field (Mylène Bourgeois, CFIA)
D - Woolly cup grass inflorescence (Romain Néron, MAPAQ)



What we can do about it

There are steps you can take to help stop the spread of this weed in Canada:

- Use certified seed;
- Ensure machinery brought onto the farm and to other areas is free of soil and plant parts; and,
- Look for woolly cup grass in crops and in disturbed areas.