



Medusahead

Taeniatherum caput-medusae



- Annual grass, Extremely competitive
- Grows 6 inches to 2 feet high
- Flowering and seed production in late spring to early summer
- Seed commonly carried by wind, animals, clothing and vehicles

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Suggested Control Methods for Medusahead Rye

Integrated Management Strategies

Herbicides:

Imazapic (Plateau) is highly effective, especially after burns, controlling annual grasses like medusahead.

Glyphosate can be used in early spring before desirable grasses sprout, but kills other vegetation.

Aminopyralid, Rimsulfuron, Sulfosulfuron are other options; always follow label instructions.

Mechanical Control:

Mowing low during early flowering disrupts thatch and seed heads.

Tillage/Disking can break up dense thatch layers but needs follow-up treatments.

Revegetation (Reseeding): Essential for long-term success after burning or herbicide use; use quick-establishing, drought-tolerant native perennials.

Grazing: Short, intense grazing with sheep or cattle in mid-to-late spring (before flowering) reduces biomass and seed production, though medusahead is generally unpalatable.

Key Considerations

Integration is Key: No single method is a silver bullet; combining treatments is crucial.

Timing Matters: Medusahead's late-season growth gives it an advantage; timing treatments (fire, herbicide, mowing) before seed set is vital.

Prevention & Monitoring: Managing grazing to prevent overgrazing and preventing its spread are the best first steps.