

# Elongated mustard

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Agriculture

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Basal rosette: leaves are slightly lobed to shallowly toothed & lance shaped.



Flowers are yellow with 4 petals and 6 sepals.



Elongated mustard can inhabit steep, rocky, and semi-arid environments.

Top and bottom photos by Larry Walker, Chaffee County Weed Department; middle photo by Rachel Winston, MIA Consulting

## Key ID Points

1. Flowers are yellow with 4 petals and 6 sepals.
2. Lance-shaped and weakly-lobed leaves do not clasp the stem.

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## Elongated mustard Identification and Management



Elongated mustard near Salida, Colorado. Photo courtesy of Larry Walker, Chaffee County Weed Department.

Please contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture to report a sighting.

## Identification and Impacts

Elongated mustard (*Brassica elongata*) is a biennial, short-live perennial, or sometimes winter annual herb with erect, branched stems up to 3 ft tall. The leaves on elongated mustard help distinguish the species from other mustards. Basal leaves are slightly lobed to shallowly toothed and lance shaped. Upper leaves are much smaller and do not clasp the stem. The small yellow flowers have four petals and six stamen and are present from June through July. The plant has a sweet fragrance when in bloom. Fruits are 0.4 to 0.6 in long with a stalk-like base and a seedless, narrow tip.

Elongated mustard is native to southeastern Europe and Asia where it inhabits semi-arid environments. It spreads by wind-dispersed seeds in the late summer and early fall. In the U.S., it can be found growing in disturbed soils, along roadsides, and in woodland and desert environments. It can tolerate

a variety of climatic conditions including extreme temperatures, varied elevations, and saline soils, but cold temperatures in the seed bed restrict germination rates. The soil seed reserve for Elongated mustard is unknown, and site monitoring should be carried out for at least 10 years after the last flowering adult plants have been eliminated.

The key to effective control of Elongated mustard is to prevent it from establishing through proper land management. Maintain healthy roadsides, pastures, and rangeland, and continually monitor your property for new infestations. The following page provides management recommendations for Elongated mustard.

Elongated mustard is designated as a "List A" species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be eradicated wherever found in the state. For More information visit: [www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds) or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division at 303-239-4100.



Treating elongated mustard with herbicide on the steep slopes near Salida, Colorado. Photos courtesy of Crystal Andrews, CDA.

*Brassica elongata*

**CULTURAL**

Cultural controls include management practices that favor the growth of desirable species over noxious weeds. These type of control are possible in theory but can be very time consuming and expensive. Complete removal of any seedlings or newly established plants by continual hand pulling is also possible.

**BIOLOGICAL**

Biocontrol agents are not included in the prescribed management plans by the State. Eradication is the management objective of all List A's. No biocontrol agent for elongated mustard is available. For more information on biocontrol in Colorado, please contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

**MECHANICAL**

Burning is not recommended because this and other types of disturbance often result in an increase of mustard establishment. Yearly manual removal of plants prior to seed set can be used as an effective way to eventually deplete the seedbank.

*Integrated Weed Management:*

*Preventing the further establishment of this plant in Colorado is crucial since only one population is known in the state. Monitoring your land for infestations, especially lands in south central Colorado, where elongated mustard is present, can significantly aid in detecting the species early and eradicating it quickly.*

*Herbicide timing is important in controlling this species. Follow timing guidelines.*

**HERBICIDES**

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands, including grazed areas. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. **Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!**

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Chlorsulfuron* (Telar XP) or Metsulfuron methyl (Escort XP)	1.0 oz product per acre + 0.25% v/v (0.32 oz/gal) non- ionic surfactant	Apply during rosette and bolting growth stages when plants are actively growing (spring to mid-summer).

\*This herbicide has residual soil activity that will affect all broadleaf seedlings germinating after application has occurred.

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