

# Alyssums



**GROW & GIVE  
WEEDS**

## ***Alyssum alyssoides* & *Alyssum desertorum***

Yellow alyssum (*Alyssum alyssoides*) and desert alyssum (*Alyssum desertorum*) are frequently found in gardens, dry waste areas, and croplands. These plants are introduced, winter annuals that reproduce by seed, meaning they germinate from fall through early spring.

These two species can be difficult to distinguish. Both have small yellow to white flowers that quickly go to seed.

Yellow alyssum seed pods are hairy while desert alyssum seed pods are not.



**Alyssum desertorum Flowers.**

Photo: Yvette Henson, CSU Extension.



**Alyssum alyssoides foliage.**

Photo: Robert L. Car, Go Botany.

Alyssums are best managed using a combination of cultural practices:

- Hand pull, dig or hoe in fall or early spring before flowering. You can also burn, if allowed in your area.
- 3" mulch will reduce seed germination.
- Soil solarization will reduce the seed bank in the soil.
- Preemergent herbicide can be applied in fall.
- Post-emergent broadleaf herbicides with 2,4-D or dicamba can be used on young plants.

For more information on Growing and Giving, go to [growandgivecolorado.org](http://growandgivecolorado.org)