

**THE ENEMY:** London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*) is an introduced plant from Europe. The plant was brought here as a herb that was used for cough and chest congestion and for cleaning wounds. Like all plants in the mustard family the flower has four yellow petals that occur atop the vegetative growth of the winter annual plant. Once the plant starts setting seeds the pods will align along the stem well above the remaining leaves. Uniquely to the plant the flower seem to occur in round clusters but the center flowers do not bloom at the same time as the outer flowers thus it can appear in a large ring format. This leaves are deeply lobed with a heavy white mid-vein.

**THE STRATEGY:** As this plant is a winter annual it gets a jump start on desirable plants. Once established it crowds out sunlight and out competes desirable plants for the sunlight and water needed for survival. The plant is aggressive and produces thousands of seeds that spread quickly over areas. It can grow in any open soil area whether it be in the backyard or sagebrush areas.

**THE DEFENSE:** Don't allow the plant to spread. Pulling the plant out of the ground is effective as cultivation on a large scale will kill the plants. 2,4-D is effective when the plants are young, but once the plants become mature one must use products in the Sulfonyl urea family. These include products such as Harmony, Telar XP, Escort XP, and others. I am not an advocate of using Roundup as you remove many desirable plants and it is not very effective against these types of weeds. Call your local weed professional for proper identification to ensure quality control of this weed.