

# MEADOW KNAPWEED

*Centaurea pratensis*

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: Control

Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Meadow knapweed is an invasive that can form dense stands, outcompeting and displacing native species.
- Infestations can reduce forage values as mature plants become less favorable to livestock.
- It is a hybrid of black knapweed and brown knapweed.

### Description

- Bushy perennial growing up to 3½ feet tall.
- Upright stems emerge from woody crown and branch near the middle.
- Basal leaves can be entire, lobed, or toothed and stem leaves are narrow and covered with short stiff hairs.
- Pink to purplish-red disk flowers are borne at the ends of branches on brown bracts with comb-like fringe that overlaps adjacent bracts.
- Seeds are tan achenes with fine hairs.

### Introduction and Movement

- Meadow Knapweed is native to Europe and was likely introduced with Black and Brown knapweed as a forage crop as well as a seed contaminant in ballast soil.
- Inhabits moist areas such as sand/gravel bars, river banks, irrigated pastures, meadows, and forest openings.
- Seeds can be easily dispersed via wind, water, and vectors such as animal fur, birds, vehicles, and shoes.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Meadow knapweed and eradicate infestations on your property.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOCK IT OFF!**



John Cardina, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



Cindy Roche, Bugwood.org



Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/113056>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV](http://INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV)  
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

# MEADOW KNAPWEED DISTRIBUTION MAP

