

PLUMELESS THISTLE

Carduus acanthoides
Asteraceae, the sunflower family
Category: Containment

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Plumeless thistle is an herbaceous plant that can form dense stands, outcompeting native species, reducing biodiversity and degrading pasture quality.
- It can hybridize with Musk thistle, another invasive thistle in Idaho.

Description

- Annual or biennial that grows up to 5 feet tall.
- Reddish-purple disk flowers grow up to 1 inch in diameter.
- Flower stems are branched with spiny wings extending to the flower heads.
- Basal leaves are pinnately lobed with prickly toothed margins. Stem leaves are smaller, alternate, hairy, and prickly.
- Seeds are glossy, golden to brown, oblong achenes with stripes.

Introduction and Movement

- Plumeless thistle is native to Eurasia and was first discovered in the U.S. in Camden, New Jersey, in 1878.
- Inhabits open, disturbed areas such as pastures, roadsides, and grasslands.
- It reproduces by seed allowing for easy dispersal via wind, water currents, and human/animal vectors.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Plumeless thistle 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!**

Sources

- Invasive Plant Atlas of the U.S.: <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=3400>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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DISTRIBUTION MAP

