

SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Centaurea stoebe

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: Containment

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Spotted knapweed is an invasive that can reduce soil fertility and stream sedimentation rates and increase surface water runoff, negatively impacting the environment and disrupting wildlife habitat.
- The plant reduces forage production and management can cost millions of dollars, annually.
- A mature plant can produce up to 25,000 seeds.
- It tolerates a wide range of climate and soil conditions but prefers well-drained, light-textured soils.

Description

- Biennial or short-lived perennial growing up to 3 feet tall.
- Has basal rosette with deeply divided, lobed, leaves that form 1-8 Slender, erect stems with roughly haired branches.
- Pale green leaves are pinnately divided, with narrow divisions, and have a rough-pubescent appearance.
- Pink to purple, urn-shaped flower heads occur solitary or in clusters of 2-3 at branches end. Bracts under flowers have a comb-like fringe with a black triangular tip.
- Dark brown to tan seeds have bristles emerging from tip.

Introduction and Movement

- Spotted knapweed is native to Eastern Europe and was introduced to North America in the late 1800s as a contaminant in lucerne seed.
- Inhabits relatively dry disturbed sites such as roadsides, waste areas, plains, and dry rangelands.
- Seeds can be easily dispersed by wind, water, vehicles, bikes, equipment, and infested hay, as well as animal vectors such as birds.

Prevention Strategy

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

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/12040>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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SPOTTED KNAPWEED DISTRIBUTION MAP

