

SQUARROSE KNAPWEED

Centaurea virgata ssp. *squarrosa*
Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: EDRR

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Squarrose knapweed is a highly invasive plant that rapidly reproduces to form dense monocultures, inhibiting the growth of nearby plants.
- Infestations can disrupt wildlife habitat and decrease plant and animal biodiversity.
- It is more adaptable to drought and cold temperatures than other knapweeds.

Description

- Long-lived perennial with branched stems and woody base.
- Plant grows 1-3 feet tall.
- Rosette and lower leaves are deeply lobed whereas upper leaves are entire, linear, or bract-like.
- Small, slender flowers are pink to purple and urn-shaped.
- Fruit is a golden to dark brown achene, with faint stripes and capped with bristles.
- Squarrose knapweed resembles diffuse knapweed but differs in that the floral bracts have outward curved spines and lack teeth on the sides.

Introduction and Movement

- Squarrose knapweed is native to the eastern Mediterranean area and its introduction to North America is unknown.
- It inhabits grasslands, rangelands, and dry, disturbed areas.
- The curved spines on seed head allow it to easily disperse by clinging to animal and human vectors such as fur and clothing.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Squarrose knapweed and report any sightings.
- Make sure to 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

- National Park Service Fact Sheet: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/497665>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

SQUARROSE KNAPWEED DISTRIBUTION MAP

