



Photo by Eric Coombs, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

OTHER KNAPWEED SPECIES

Russian Knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*)
 Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
 Meadow Knapweed (*Centaurea pratensis*),
 Squarrose Knapweed (*Centaurea virgata*)

DESCRIPTION

Spotted knapweed is a biennial or short-lived perennial. Growing up to three feet tall, it is a multi-stemmed plant, with the majority of its slender stems branching from the upper half of the plant. In its first year, it forms a basal rosette of leaves and flowers in subsequent years. The rosette leaves are roughly 8 inches long, are borne on short stalks, and are lobed once or twice each side. Flowering stems are hairy and bear tubular, pink to purple (or, rarely, cream-colored) flowers. The bracts of the flower heads are fringed at the margins and black tipped, hence the name "spotted."

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN ALL KNAPWEEDS

- urn-shaped flower heads
- bristly/fringed bracts below the flower heads

WHEN TO FIND SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Spotted Knapweed is most easily found during the months it is in bloom (July through August).

WHERE TO FIND SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Spotted knapweed is commonly found on pastureland or any other open ground, such as a prairie, open Douglas fir forests.

WHAT TO DO

Please report, but do not pull knapweeds.

Please Report any Knapweed-like species at Aqate Desert and Table Rock Preserves

Spotted knapweed

(and other problematic knapweeds)

Centaurea maculosa

Spotted Knapweed is native to central Europe and Eurasia, and is believed to have come to North America in alfalfa seed in the 1890s. Although it is found throughout most of the United States, it is a dominant weed species in western states. It is found throughout Oregon, abundantly along the middle region of the state.

Spotted Knapweed reproduces by seed, with each plant producing 400 or more seeds per flower stalk. Seeds can be dispersed by wildlife or livestock, in hay, soil or commercial seed, or by vehicles.

Spotted knapweed and other closely related knapweeds and thistles have more negative impacts on natural and agricultural ecosystems than any other weed in the West. In Oregon, it has cost nearly \$54 million in economic loss. It out-competes native plants, reducing biodiversity. Additionally, it may degrade soil and water resources by increasing erosion, surface runoff, and stream sedimentation.

Seed longevity makes controlling spotted knapweed difficult. Means of controlling infested areas include biological control (introducing predator species, such as moths and weevils), mechanical methods (such as mowing), chemical control, and long-term grazing of sheep and goats.

REFERENCES

Mauer, Teresa, Mary J Russo (ed.), Margaret Evans (ed.). Element Stewardship Abstract for *Centaurea maculosa*, Spotted Knapweed. Available at <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/documnts/centmac.pdf>. Accessed April 27, 2007



Photo courtesy of WA State Noxious Weed Control Board Website



Rolette. Photo by Steve Dewey, Utah State University