



Fact Sheet 98-76

WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

Spotted Knapweed

Alias: *Centaurea maculosa*

Spotted knapweed, introduced as a contaminant in alfalfa and clover seeds from Eurasia, is one of the leading problem weeds in the United States. This plant can dominate rangelands that receive less than eight inches annual precipitation. Its early spring growth makes it very competitive with desirable native plants. Knapweed suppresses the growth of other plants by releasing inhibiting chemicals from the roots. It is a biennial, with vegetative leaf growth the first year and pink flowers the second. Spotted knapweed is listed as a noxious weed by Nevada Administrative Code.



One of the leading problem weeds in the United States, knapweed suppresses the growth of other plants by releasing inhibiting chemicals from the roots.

Distinguishing features:

- ◆ A rosette of small leaves appears close to the ground the first year. Leaves are deeply lobed and can be six inches long and up to one inch wide, particularly near the base of the second-year plant.
- ◆ Grows up to 4 feet tall the second year.
- ◆ Flowering stalks emerge from the rosette the second year. Flowers are pink to purple, occasionally white, solitary, and up to one inch in diameter, blooming from June to October. Abundant seed is produced.

Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Avoid walking on, driving on, or camping in infested areas.
- ◆ Remove all weed seeds from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area. Herbicides may be available to kill this weed.
- ◆ Do not use any of these for dried floral arrangements. This can introduce the seed to your property.

Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension
775-784-1334;

Nevada Division of Agriculture
Bureau of Plant Industry,
775-688-1180; or

Your local Weed District manager or
Conservation District: