Canada thistle

(*Cirsium arvense*)

Canada thistle	
General	Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae) Introduced from Europe List B
Habitat	Herbaceous perennial Colony forming unisexual plants Found in cultivated fields, riparian areas, pastures, forests, lawns and gardens, roadsides, and in waste areas Control is difficult
PLANT	
Vegetation	Mature plants are 2-5 feet tall Leaves are 4-8 inches long, usually dark green with spiny serrated edges
Roots	Horizontal roots 15+ feet, growth is quick and plants can regenerate from small pieces Vertical roots 6-15 feet
Flower	June-August Color: Purple, pink or white Buds are 3/4 inch wide, 1 inch long
Seed	Can be viable eight to ten days after flowering Germinate late May through early fall Can remain dormant in soil for up to 20 years
Seedling	April or May. Rosettes start to appear around mid-April and continue through the summer
Reproduction	Seed Horizontal roots - Root propagation is the main source of new plants

CONTROL			
BIOLOGICAL	*Not effective in our area*		
CHEMICAL	***Stage***	***Herbicide***	***Timing***
	Pre-Bud - Early Bud	2,4-D (many) 2,4-D + Dicamba (many) Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective, others) Aminopyralid (Milestone) Chlorsulfuron (Telar DF) Clopyralid (Transline, Curtail) Dicamba (Banvel) Metsulfuron (Escort)	Spring - early Summer
	Prior to frost	Aminopyralid (Milestone) Chlorsulfuron (Telar DF) Glyphosate (ie: RoundUp/Rodeo. Spot treatment only) Picloram (Tordon - Restricted Use)	Fall
CULTURAL	Prevention - maintain the health of the site		
MECHANICAL	***Stage***	***Method***	***Timing***
Burning	N/A		
Grazing	N/A		
Mowing	Prior to seed set	Mow every three to four weeks Follow with fall herbicide treatment	June - September

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products.

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