



## Bull thistle

*Cirsium vulgare*



### Bull thistle

**General** Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae)  
Introduced from Europe  
**Colorado List B - ERADICATION REQUIRED IN JEFFCO**

**Habitat** Biennial forb  
Found in drainages, meadows, rights-of way, disturbed sites

### PLANT

**Vegetation** Plants up to 3 feet tall  
Leaves alternate  
½ inch wide and 2-4 inches long  
Prickly on top with cottony hairs on the underside  
Leaves on older plants clasp the stem and are divided into segments

**Roots** Taproot

**Flower** June-August  
Purple  
Single  
1½ - 2 inches wide  
Bracts covered with spines

**Seed** Up to 4,000

**Reproduction** Seed

<b>CONTROL</b>			
<b>BIOLOGICAL</b>	None		
<b>CHEMICAL</b>	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Timing</i>
	Rosette	2,4-D or 2,4-D + dicamba (Rangestar, others) Clopyralid (Transline or Stinger) Clopyralid + 2,4-D (Curtail) Dicamba (Banvel, others) Picloram (Tordon 22K *restricted use chemical)	Spring or Fall
	Bolting to early bud	Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Metsulfuron (Escort XP)	Spring
<b>CULTURAL</b>	Prevention Removal - make sure the entire root is removed. Must be repeated as new plants germinate.		
<b>MECHANICAL</b>	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Timing</i>
<b>Burning</b>	N/A		
<b>Grazing</b>	N/A		
<b>Mowing</b>	Prior to seed set	Mow every three to four weeks. Works best when combined with fall herbicide treatments.	June through 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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