



Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stobe*)



Spotted knapweed	
General	Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae) Native to Central Europe Introduced to North America in the late 1800's or early 1900's Colorado List B - Eradication Required in Jefferson County
Habitat	Long-lived biennial/short lived herbaceous perennial Found in meadows, pastures, roadsides, and sandy or gravelly floodplains of streams and rivers Causes serious decline in forage and crop production Roots do not hold soil as well as native vegetation so soil erosion is sometimes an associated problem Releases a toxin that reduces growth of forage species Areas heavily infested with spotted knapweed will probably need to be reseeded once the plant is controlled
PLANT	
Vegetation	1-4 feet tall with 1-20 upright stems Rosette leaves are 6 inches long and deeply lobed Forms rosettes the first year. Bolts in the spring of second growing season (May to June)
Roots	Taproot
Flower	June-October Pink or purple Single 1/2 inch wide Bracts have black tips
Seed	Each plant can produce as many as 25,000 seeds Most seeds fall within 3 feet of the plant Seeds can stay dormant for 8 years
Seedling	Seeds germinate in spring or fall forming a rosette. Peak germination is in May
Reproduction	Seed

CONTROL			
BIOLOGICAL	<i>Bio-control is not an option in eradication zones.</i>		
CHEMICAL	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Timing</i>
	Rosette - Early bolt	Aminopyralid (Milestone) Clopyralid (Transline, Stinger) Clopyralid + 2,4-D (Curtail) Picloram (Tordon 22K - <i>Restricted Use</i>)	Spring or Fall
CULTURAL	Prevention - Promote healthy desirable grass growth through irrigation or revegetation Removal - Make sure the entire root is removed. Must be repeated as new plants germinate Bag and dispose of flowerheads after buds are formed Hand pulling or clipping seedheads in very small areas Reseeding - Use fast growing grasses		
MECHANICAL	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Burning	N/A		
Grazing	N/A		
Mowing	Prior to seed set	Mow to remove seedheads before seed set. This method will not control but will slow the spread by seed. Follow with herbicide treatment.	May-early June

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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