

STOP THE SPREAD

Spotted Knapweed

Centaurea maculosa

Spotted Knapweed can act as a tumble weed and spread its seeds by “tumbling” around in the wind

UNWANTED PLANTS

Origin

A biennial or short-lived perennial native to Eastern Europe. It was accidentally introduced through contaminated crop seed in the 1900's.

Status

Found throughout the north western United States including North Dakota. It is new to Manitoba and has been found in Birds Hill Provincial Park area, south of Beausejour and in the RM of Piney.

Impacts

Spotted Knapweed has few natural enemies and is only grazed on when other vegetation is unavailable. The roots excrete a toxin that prevents the growth of native plant species.

Where to Look

Primarily found by highways, waterways, and railroad tracks, Spotted Knapweed prefers well-drained soil and is intolerant of constant moisture and dense shade.

Control

Cutting or pulling before flowering can be effective on small infestations to prevent seed production, but will require several years' effort to eradicate. Remove as much of the root system as possible to prevent re-sprouting. Bare skin contact with Knapweed can cause irritation, so wear gloves.

Twelve biocontrol agents have been imported to North America and many of them have become very widespread throughout the northwestern US and southern BC. They have caused dramatic reductions in plant size, and therefore seed production in some areas.



Look For:

- ◇ Grows to be 1.5 m tall. May have multiple stems
- ◇ Alternate leaves pinnately divided (feather-like), and can be slightly hairy.
- ◇ Flowers pink to purple in colour with bracts that have black tips giving spotted appearance blooms from early July through August

Prevent the Spread in Manitoba

Spotted Knapweed spreads via hay or vehicle undercarriages; caution should be used when using hay from road ditches, and when purchasing hay from known infested areas in neighbouring states and provinces.

Report a Sighting:



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