

# STOP THE INVASION



Common  
Burdock

*Arctium minus*

**THE PRICKLY SEED HEADS ARE DESIGNED FOR DISPERSAL, READILY ATTACHING TO WHATEVER ANIMAL MAY BRUSH PAST.**

## Origin

Native to Eurasia it was first reported in North America in 1638.

## Impacts

The burs can get tangled in the manes and tails of horses and can damage or de-value the wool of sheep. Heavily burred cattle can become stressed, experience eye, nose or mouth injuries and become de-valued at market. There have even been occasional accounts where birds and bats have become entangled in the burrs and died.

## Status

Naturalized throughout Manitoba and much of North America.

## Where to Look

It prefers areas with moist fertile soils such as riparian areas and recent soil disturbance such areas include: farmlands, pastures, open or disturbed woods, road sides, fence lines and abandoned fields.

## Control

Preventing the production of the burred seed is a key way to prevent spread. Avoid soil disturbance, re-seed bare soil where possible, encourage desirable, competing vegetation. Tillage will kill plants in the rosette stage. Mowing or cutting can eliminate seed production and should be done after the plant has bolted, but before flowering.

## Look for:

**Stems:** 1-3 m tall thick reddish tinge and branched.

**Leaves:** Look similar to rhubarb, alternate, edges are wavy or toothed, woolly on underside.

**Flowers:** purple in colour form clusters along stems, spiny hooked bracts surround flowers. Flowering occurs throughout the summer.

**Seeds:** can produce 6,000-16,000 seeds that are shed in fall throughout winter and into spring.



UNWANTED PLANTS

**Report a Sighting:**

**Invasive Species Council of Manitoba**

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**EDD MapS** **Prairie Region**  
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System Manitoba & Saskatchewan

<http://www.eddmaps.org/prairieregion/>

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