



Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

BT CIRS VUL

Taprooted biennial growing to 0.3 to 1.5 metres tall.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
		Overwintering adult				Adult	Lar/pup	Adult	Overwintering adult		
		Overwintering	Adult	Larva	pupa	Adult	Overwintering adult				



Larinus planus (F.)



Rhinocyllus conicus (Fröl.)

Distribution

Common throughout the Interior.

Quick ID

Dark purple flower heads 3.8 to 5cm wide, with sharp, spiny bracts.

Prickly stems with spiny wings from leaves.

Leaves with short prickles on the upper surface and cottony hair below.

Interesting Facts:

Most animals do not care for the bitter taste of the bull thistle and will not consume it.

Manual Treatment: Cutting and mowing top growth or cutting the taproot just below the root crown before seed-set will eliminate annual seed production. Repeated cutting may be necessary. Cutting and mowing treatments are most effective before plant has bolted.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: At 4-5 cm in diameter, the bull thistle's large, bright pink (to dark purple) flowers are hard to miss. Blooms form at the ends of branches, supported by equally large, spine-covered bracts.

Leaves and Stems: Deeply divided leaves have stout spines at the ends and at the tips of each segment. Leaves clasp the stem with distinctive spiny wings.

Roots: Thick woody taproot.

Reproduction and Dispersal: Seeds are highly viable and usually germinate rapidly whenever conditions are favourable. Seeds have silky down and can be windblown for long distances. However, the majority of seeds land near the parent plant.

Habitat Preference: Bull thistles grow in dry to moist habitats that include roadsides, cultivated fields, pastures, logged forestland, and disturbed sites. They are generally intolerant to shade but are widespread and abundant in all areas of British Columbia.

