



Marsh Plume Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*)

MT CIRS PAL

Biennial thistle growing to about 1.5 metres tall.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>		Overwintering	Adult	Larva	pupa	Adult	Overwintering adult				



Distribution

Very limited distribution in the Southern Interior.

Please report **all** occurrences.

Quick ID

A single, slender, un-branched stem with a cluster of purple flowers at the top.

The upright stem can grow to 1.5 m tall and is evenly covered in spiny wings.

Leaves are deeply segmented, hairy on the undersides, and have prominent woody veins.



Interesting Facts:

As this species flourishes in moist-to-wet openings, it can form dense clumps in cut blocks, competing for moisture and nutrients with tree seedlings.



Manual Treatment: In areas that are suitable for use of mowing equipment, mowing before flowering will prevent seed-set.



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Flowers: Compact clusters of purple flowers form at the tip of the stems. Bracts at the base of the flowers are sticky and tipped with a long spine.



Leaves and Stems: Slender stems are strongly spiny-winged and are usually un-branched, except for the upper

portion which terminates in clusters of purple flower heads. Deep segmented, spine-tipped leaves are somewhat hairy on the underside and have prominent woody veins.

Seeds: Seeds are straw coloured, 2.5 to 3.5 mm long, with a 9 to 10 mm long tawny pappus.

Roots: Fibrous root system.

Reproduction and Dispersal: By seeds. Wind and water disperse the light, parachute-like seed. Ingestion of seeds by birds may also disperse seeds.

Habitat Preference: Prefers moist wood-lands, riparian areas, roadsides and pastures on both disturbed and undisturbed sites.

