

Meadow Knapweed (*Centaurea pratensis*)

MK CENT DEB

Erect, short-lived perennial or biennial up to 1.2 metres in height. Meadow knapweed is a fully fertile hybrid between Black knapweed and Brown knapweed. Because it is a hybrid, its traits can vary. Introduced from Eurasia.



Distribution

Very limited distribution in the Southern Interior.

Please report **all** occurrences.

Interesting Facts:

May be capable of hybridizing with Yellow starthistle and Diffuse knapweed.

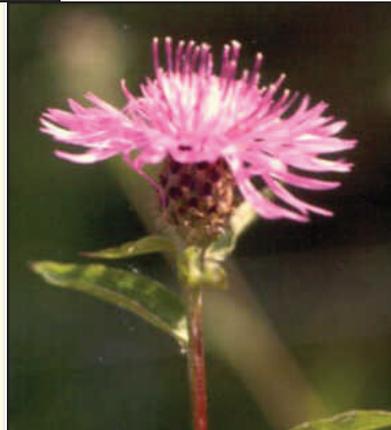
Quick ID

Pinkish-purple flowers.

Leaves have entire margins or shallow lobes.

Floral bracts are papery with a brownish fringe.

Seed head from previous year persists.



Manual Treatment: Larger infestations can be mowed to remove top growth. Bag and burn mown plants.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: One pinkish-purple (or occasionally white), globe-shaped flower head develops on the end of each stem branch. The papery bracts below the flower head have a tan to dark-brown, bushy fringe. During flowering, the bracts reflect a metallic, golden sheen.

Leaves and Stems: Coarse; covered with fine hairs that give it a grayish-green appearance. Entire, undivided leaves with margins that may be wavy or toothed distinguish it from other knapweeds. Basal rosette leaves are up to 15.24 cm long, taper at both ends, and may be shallowly lobed. Middle and upper leaves are smaller, nearly stalkless and are not lobed.



Seeds: Ivory white to light-brown seeds.

Roots: Deep, stout taproot. Mature plants develop a cluster of somewhat fleshy roots below the woody crown.

Reproduction and Dispersal: Primarily by seed but root and crown fragments also re-sprout. Seeds are often sold in seed catalogs or wildflower mixes and may be found in gardens as an ornamental plant.

Habitat Preference: Found in fields, roadsides and other open areas. Tolerates partial shade and likes wetter environments, such as irrigated pastures or moist meadows.

