



## Plumeless Thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*)

PT CARD ACA

Perennial taprooted thistle growing to 1.2 metres tall.

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



### Distribution

Currently found  
in the Kamloops area.

### Quick ID

Reddish-purple flower heads.

Stem leaves hairy only on  
upper side.

Spiny wings densely covering stem  
up to base of flower heads.

Narrow bracts below the seed head  
appear as sharp spines.

### Interesting Facts:

Unpalatable to grazing animals.

### “Look-Alike” Species

Similar in appearance to **non-native** Nodding thistle, *Carduus nutans*, but differs by having spiny wings densely covering stem, smaller flowers (less than 3 cm in diameter), and leaves lacking a prominent white margin. Nodding thistle and Plumeless thistle can hybridize.



**Manual Treatment:** Hand pulling with leather gloves or cutting the tap root at least 5 cm below the soil line before flowering prevents seed production. Can be effective at reducing populations if done repeatedly throughout the growing season.



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**Flowers:** Reddish-purple flowers (less than 3 cm in diameter) are either solitary or in clusters of two to five. Narrow bracts below the seed head appear as sharp spines.

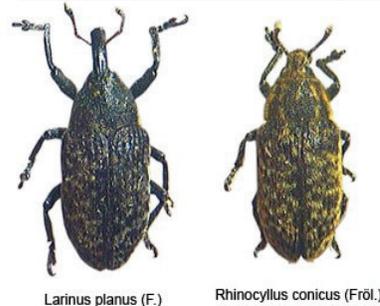
**Leaves and Stems:** Leaves have hair only on the underside, spines along the leaf margin, and a light midrib. Stem leaves are stalkless, extend down the stem like spiny wings. The stems are branched near the top and are densely covered with these spiny wings up to base of flower heads. Rosette leaves are deeply serrated nearly to the midrib.

**Seeds:** Single seeded fruits are 2 to 3 mm long, light brown with faint longitudinal stripes, and have a plume (pappus) with bristles 11 to 12 mm long.

**Roots:** Large, fleshy taproot.

**Reproduction and Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed only. Dispersed primarily by wind. Extremely prolific seed producer; up to 9,000 seeds per plant.

**Habitat Preference:** Pastures, grasslands, crop fields, river valleys, roadsides and disturbed open sites.



Schott, C. "Thistle beetles." Photo. *Coleoptera Curculionoidea*. 25/01/2013. <<http://claude.schott.free.fr/Cleoninae/Cleoninae-liste-PL.html>>

