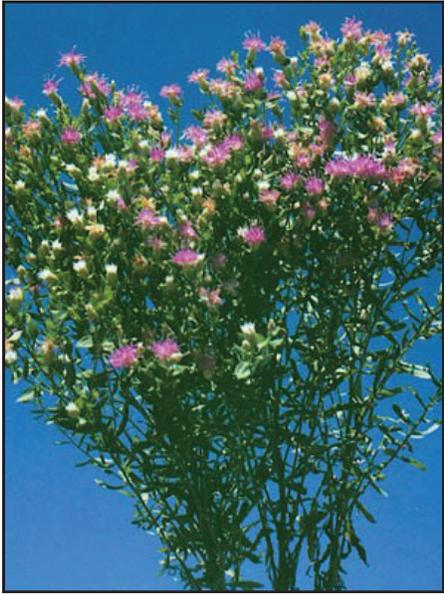


Russian Knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*)

RK ACRO REP

Erect, perennial herb up to 1 metre tall. Longer lived than other knapweeds due to extensive, rhizomatous root system. Forms dense colonies. Introduced from Eurasia in contaminated alfalfa seed.



Distribution

Found throughout
Southern Interior.

Quick ID

Silvery flower buds open into pinkish-purple flowers.

Papery, green, floral bracts.

Black, scaly, creeping roots.

Woolly, hairy basal leaves.

Interesting Facts:

Smooth-tipped bracts & blackish,
scaly creeping roots distinguish it from other knapweeds.

Manual Treatment: Hand pull or dig entire plant before seed set, removing as much of the root system as possible. Wear gloves. Hand pulling, cutting, or mowing may control but will not eliminate infestations.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: One pinkish-purple, urn-shaped flower head develops on the end of each stem branch. Egg-shaped floral bracts are green at the base, have a whitish papery margin, and are slightly hairy towards the tip.

Leaves and Stems: Coarse; covered with fine hairs that give the plant a grayish-green appearance. First year basal rosette has wavy or deeply-lobed leaves, up to 10 cm long. Flowering stalks with alternate leaves grow from the rosette in second year. The narrow upper stem leaves with toothed margins are attached directly to the stem.

Seeds: Flattened, egg-shaped, ivory seeds; 3 to 4 mm long. Not a prolific seed producer.

Roots: Rhizomatous with a vigorous root system. Can grow to depth of 7.6 metres. Creeping adventitious shoots branch off the heavily scaled, black, bark-like roots, enabling plant to spread rapidly.

Reproduction and Dispersal: Primarily by creeping roots (rhizomes).

Habitat Preference: Found in fields, roadsides, cultivated lands and other open areas. Often found in poorly-drained and saline or alkaline soils. Does not tolerate dense shade.

