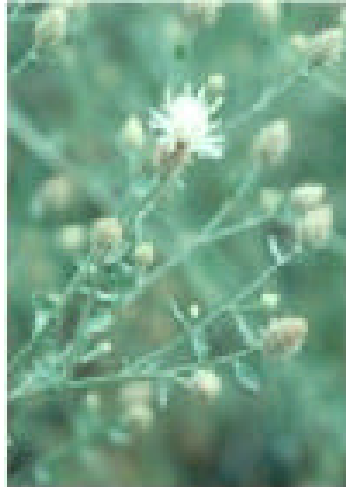


Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)



Diffuse knapweed	
General	Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae) Herbaceous Biennial (short lived perennial) Rosettes formed the first year and bolt early in May to June of the next year. Dead plants break off near the ground and tumble.
Habitat	Found in disturbed areas such as overgrazed pastures and rangelands, roadsides, right-of ways, and gravel pits. Prefers dry, light, porous soils. Intolerant of shade and flooding.
PLANT	
Vegetation	Grayish green Contains chemicals that may irritate skin Contains chemicals that may inhibit other plants Mature plants are 1-2 feet tall with numerous single flowerheads at the tips of shoots.
Roots	Tap root
Flower	White and sometimes light purple Second season June - September Small - 0.13 inches wide and 0.5-0.67 long Bracts are comb-like and tipped with a spine Sometimes bracts are dark tipped but can be told apart from Spotted knapweed by the long terminal spine.



Diffuse Knapweed

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Seed	15,000+ seeds per plant Seed may stay dormant in soil for more than six years Seed spread by plants as they break off at the base and tumble
Seedling	Seedlings spend their first growing season as rosettes.
Reproduction	Seed

CONTROL			
BIOLOGICAL	<i>Agapeta zoegana</i> : root boring moth <i>Cyphocleonus achates</i> , root weevil <i>Larinus minutus</i> , seedhead weevil <i>Sphenoptera jugoslavica</i> , root borer		
CHEMICAL	Rosette	2,4-D plus Dicamba Clopyralid (Curtail, Transline)	Spring or fall
	Mid-bolt through late bud stage	Clopyralid (Curtail, Transline) Dicamba (Banvel) Picloram (Tordon) (restricted use pesticide)	Spring
CULTURAL	Prevention - Maintain health of site Removal - Hand pulling works when populations are small and isolated. Revegetation of highly disturbed sites Grass competition - Promote grass growth by fertilization, irrigation, reseeding. Cultivation - whenever plants are 3 to 6 inches tall		
MECHANICAL			
Burning	Not effective alone. Conditions usually do not support an effective fire. May promote flush of weeds that can then be treated with herbicide.		
Grazing	Sheep, goats and cattle will eat.		
Mowing	Not effective alone. Plants will regrow from crown and produce as many seeds as un-mown plants.		

Other Info	http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/03110.pdf
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Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products.