



Fact Sheet 98-73

WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

Russian Knapweed

Alias: *Centaurea repens*

Russian knapweed, like other knapweeds, is native to Eurasia. It is a perennial in Nevada and can be found in cultivated fields, orchards, pastures, roadsides, and rangelands. It prefers areas where the water table is within 20 feet of the surface. It can easily dominate cultivated fields and rangelands where its deep roots penetrate to free water. Transporting infested soils and moving contaminated equipment spreads this weed. Russian knapweed is listed as a noxious weed by Nevada Administrative Code.



This deep-rooted perennial can easily dominate cultivated fields and rangelands.



Distinguishing features:

- ◆ Grows 18 inches to 3 feet tall.
- ◆ Stems are erect and multi-branched.
- ◆ Leaves are blue-green, toothed, and covered with fine hair.
- ◆ Showy pink flowers bloom from June to September. The pearly bracts at the base of the flower head are rounded with papery margins. Flowers are small, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, cone shaped, and usually pink, but can be white to purple.
- ◆ Dense colonies can form from adventitious roots.

Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Avoid walking on, driving on, or camping in Russian knapweed-infested areas and remove all weed seeds before moving out of an infested area.
- ◆ Dispose of the seeds, shoots, and roots in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may be available to kill this plant.
- ◆ Do not purchase, move, or use contaminated soil.

Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension
775-784-1334;

Nevada Division of Agriculture
Bureau of Plant Industry,
775-688-1180; or

Your local Weed District manager or
Conservation District: