



Fact Sheet 98-62

WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

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

Diffuse Knapweed

Alias: *Centaurea diffusa*

Diffuse knapweed is a native of Eurasia and can be an annual or a short-lived perennial. This weed infests roadsides, waste areas, dry rangelands, and disturbed sites. In Nevada, it can dominate rangelands that receive less than 15 inches of precipitation annually.

This weed is highly competitive and threatens to exclude many desirable plants from pastures and rangelands not now infested. Vehicles, equipment, and movement of contaminated sand or gravel spreads the seed. Diffuse knapweed is listed as a noxious weed by Nevada Administrative Code.



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Distinguishing features:

- ◆ Grows 1 to 2 feet tall.
- ◆ Stems are multi-branched and rough to the touch.
- ◆ Leaves are finely divided and covered with small hairs.
- ◆ Flowers are white to rose or purple. The bracts at the base of the flower head are distinctly toothed and have a yellow spine at the tip.
- ◆ Flowers are present from July to September.

Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Avoid walking on, driving on, or camping in diffuse knapweed-infested areas.
- ◆ Remove all weed seeds from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area.
- ◆ Dispose of the seeds, shoots, and roots in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may also 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:

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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