

BULL THISTLE

Cirsium vulgare



University of Georgia

Mature Height	3 to 6 feet	Soil Type	Prefers fertile silt loam to loam
Mature Spread	1 to 2 feet	Flower Color	Pink to Purple
Mature Form	Erect & Branched	Foliage Color	Leaves Dark Green on top, Silver on bottom
Growth Rate	Fairly Rapid	Fall Color	Drab brown
Sun Exposure	Prefers Full Sun		
Soil Moisture	Moist to dry		

The Bull Thistle is very spiny and is a common plant that occurs in most Indiana counties. It is a biennial, forming a rosette in the first year and an erect branched blooming stem in the second year. This thistle is from Eurasia, and it has existed in the United States since the 19th century, if not earlier. Habitats include pastures, abandoned fields, fence rows, lawns, golf courses, areas along roadsides and railroads, cut-over woods, and miscellaneous waste areas. This species prefers disturbed areas and it is not common in high quality natural areas. A good control technique is a foliar spray on the first year rosettes of triclopyr plus 2,4-D in the late fall or in the early spring before flower stalk formation.



Flower



Branched Stem



First year Plant



Fluffy Seed

University of Georgia Photos



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

