

# CANADA THISTLE

*Cirsium arvense*



Hoosier Heartland RC & D

Mature Height	2 to 6 feet	Soil Type	Moist soils
Mature Spread	Usually in Colonies	Flower Color	Purple to Laven-dar
Mature Form	Upright	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Rapid	Fall Color	Green
Sun Exposure	Prefers full sun		
Soil Moisture	Moist to well drained		

The name Canada Thistle does not explain its origin, this really tough invasive plant originated in the Mediterranean area and southeast Europe, not Canada. Although it reproduces and starts a colony by seed, its rapid spread is by sprouts from the massive underground root system shown below. It is this massive root system that makes it difficult to control. Canada Thistle grows profusely along roads, in pastures, along edges and in crop fields, in flower beds and any where a seed can get in contact with the soil. Control is best accomplished with a systemic herbicide such as glyphosate when the plant is in the rosette stage in the spring or fall. Usually takes several treatments and sometimes 2 or more years to gain control.



Virginian Tech Photo



Purdue University Photo



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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.

