

# SPINY PLUMELESS THISTLE

*Cardus acanthoides*



Mature Height	One to Four Feet	Soil Type	
Mature Spread	Colonizes	Flower Color	Pinkish red to purple
Mature Form	Erect Branching	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Fairly rapid	Fall Color	Brown
Sun Exposure	Prefers Sun		
Soil Moisture	All Moisture Conditions		

North Dakota State University

Fairly new to Indiana Spiny Plumeless Thistle is a biennial forb growing in a rosette as in the lower left photo the first year and growing 1 to 4 feet in height the second year when it produces seed. Leaves are deeply lobed and end in a spine. The stems have many branches with spiny wings extending to the flower heads. Flowers are usually clustered with spiny wings at the base. Each plant is capable of producing 100,000 seeds that are dispersed by wind. New plants grow from seed. Seed can remain viable for up to ten years. The plants have a single fleshy tap root. This one is in all the state around Indiana and was found in Stueben County in 2014. Control of first year rosettes is important. Remove the rosette by cutting the fleshy taproot and removing. It is crucial to remove the blooms from second year plants to prevent seed production. Herbicides labeled for thistle are effective when applied to rosette and/or bolting plants early in the season before bloom formation. This thistle is a native plant to Eastern Europe and Asia.



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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.

