

SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Centaurea stoebe



Mature Height	1 to 4 feet	Soil Type	Light Textured
Mature Spread	Colonizes	Flower Color	Purple to Pink
Mature Form	Erect—Branched	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Spreads Rapidly	Fall Color	Brownish Green
Sun Exposure	Prefers Full Sun		
Soil Moisture	Does Well On Harsh Dry Sites		

National Park Service

Spotted Knapweed is a biennial and sometimes perennial plant growing in a rosette the first year, bolting to an erect seed stalk the second and succeeding years. It sometimes lives and produces seed for 7 or 8 years. Has deeply lobed leaves. Brought to the US accidentally in alfalfa seed and ship ballast. Native to Europe and Western Asia. Invades open areas and can tolerate nutrient poor soils and harsh dry conditions. Gets its name from the dark bracts on the flower head (photo lower left). Displaces native plants and reduces forage capacity of pastures. Control of Spotted Knapweed is very difficult and requires investment of time, partly because seeds can be viable for 8 years. Plants can be pulled when soil is moist and the deep tap root is completely removed. Repeated mowing is sometimes effective but must be done and repeated before seed production. Systemic herbicides such as glyphosate are effective when applied in the spring while desirable plants are still basically dormant and in the fall when the Knapweed is moving nutrients to the roots. Apply the foliar spray in a manner that it does not drip on to desirable plants.. Follow label directions when using herbicides.



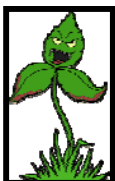
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Ohio State University



John Randall—The Nature Conservan-



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.

