



## CANADA THISTLE (*Cirsium arvense*)

Family: Asteraceae (Aster)

Life Cycle: Perennial

Class: C - Control Required

AKA: Creeping thistle

CANADA THISTLE	DESCRIPTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate male and female plants; both must be present to produce viable seed</li> <li>• Creeping root system can grow 6-15 feet deep</li> <li>• Plant leaves and shape can vary greatly depending on where it grows</li> <li>• Native to Europe and Asia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Growth Traits:</b> Perennial herbaceous plant with creeping roots that form dense colonies of genetically identical plants. An individual colony can reach over 100 feet in diameter. Vegetation dies in the winter, and regrows from roots each year. It grows up to five feet tall, with slender stems that branch near the top. Flowerheads appear on stem tips in clusters.</p>
<h3 data-bbox="94 520 467 562">CONTROL METHODS</h3> <p><b>Mechanical:</b> Repeated tilling (7 to 28 day intervals) over several years can be effective. Clean all equipment before removing it from infested sites. Repeated mowing will remove new growth and reduce seed production, but will not stop vegetative reproduction and spread. Hand pulling not recommended, as very little of root will be removed, and plant will regrow.</p> <p><b>Cultural:</b> Maintain competitive desirable vegetation. Do not allow overgrazing, and reseed disturbed areas. Livestock tend to avoid grazing on or near Canada thistle.</p> <p><b>Biological:</b> A stem gall fly can divert energy from root and flower production, but alone does not kill the plant or stop spread.</p> <p><b>Chemical*:</b> Most effective before blooming begins. See table below for recommendations.</p>	<p><b>Leaves and Stems:</b> Leaves may be smooth or have spiny, wavy edges, and are arranged alternately on stems. May be hairy or hairless, with hair on underside of leaves. Stems start as rosette, growing upright. Stems are not winged, but may be densely hairy to hairless.</p> <p><b>Flowers:</b> Blooms June - September. Many flowerheads per plant, growing in clusters on stem tips. Many bracts under the flowerhead, which may have a spiny tip. Flowers pink to purple, very occasionally white.</p> <p><b>Roots and Reproduction:</b> Fibrous taproot and spreading horizontal roots create an extensive root system. Reproduces by adventitious shoots on roots and by seed. Seeds tufted and may be dispersed by wind over short distances. Spreads most vigorously vegetatively. Seeds may remain viable for 20 years.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Prefers moist soils but will tolerate a wide range of soil types. It does not tolerate much shade. Grows in open disturbed areas such as roadsides, yards, pasture, rangeland, forest openings and cropland.</p> <p><b>Toxicity:</b> Not known to be toxic.</p>

**\*ALWAYS read herbicide labels and follow instructions for use and PPE.** The use of a surfactant (aka sticker) increases the efficacy of herbicide application, saving you time and money. If treating over multiple seasons, rotate using herbicides with different modes of action to reduce likelihood of herbicide resistance developing. Below are recommended herbicides based on stage of growth and time of year. All recommendations are supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Noxious Weed Board is implied. Trade names are used to simplify recommendations. **NOTE:** There is no 'magic bullet' in noxious weed control, and control efforts must be repeated every season to stop their spread. Using a combination of methods (e.g. cultural and chemical) will lead to better control over time.

April - May Rosette, Seedling Stage	June - July Bolting, Bud, Bloom Stage	August - October Seeding, Fall Regrowth Stage
WeedMaster	Tordon + 2,4-D	Tordon + 2,4-D
Curtail	Roundup ( <i>spot spray</i> )	<b>Fall regrowth:</b>
Tordon	Telar	Telar
Prescott	Milestone	Banvel
Milestone		Milestone