

Plumeless Thistle

Native range: Southern Europe and Western Asia

Stem: Grows 1 to 5 feet tall, has many leaf-like spines, can be densely hairy to nearly hairless.

Leaves: are oval or oblong, grow about 4 to 8 inches long, irregularly and deeply lobed with small spines along the margin. Each leaf has four 1/32—1/4 inch spines on the tip.

Flowers: Are purple or very rarely white or yellow. The heads grow to be 5/8-1 inch tall and 3/8-3/4 inch wide. The flower has spiny outer bracts that are 1/4-1/2 inch long and spineless inner bracts that are about 3/4 inch long.

Roots: Has a stout taproot system.

New plants: are reproduced only by seeds. The seeds are scattered mainly by the wind travelling a max of 330 feet. Each plant can produce over 10,000 seeds.



For over 60 years, the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (NPSWCD) has maintained a firm commitment to, and solid level of support for, the conservation, wise use and management of Nez Perce County's natural resources.

Today, the NPSWCD continues to meet the needs of landowners and land users throughout the area. While providing the public with a formal channel for cooperation, and assisting county, state and federal agencies in practicing resource conservation, the NPSWCD routinely offers information and technical guidance to individuals with land or resource needs and concerns.

Additional Resources:

- www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu
- www.ianrpubs.unl.edu
- dnr.wi.gov/invasives

The NPSWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of sex, color, national origin, religion, color, and age.



Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District

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Plumeless Thistle: An Invasive Plant

Please contact the NPSWCD if you have Plumeless Thistle on your property or if you know of any locations where this plant is growing.

Tel: 208-843-2931

► Description and Variation

Plumeless Thistle is a biennial taproot plant. The rosette leaves are narrow and oval or oblong, along with being deeply lobed. The flowers are purple or rarely white or yellow. The flowers bloom in May to August. The thistle grows between 1 to 5 feet tall. The stem is freely branched in the upper portion of the plant. The leaves will alternate with one leaf at each node. The leaves are attached directly to the stem. The stems are winged and very spiny.



History

Plumeless Thistle originated from Southern Europe and Western Asia. It was first brought to the United States in 1879.

Habitat

Plumeless Thistle inhabits grasslands, disturbed areas, recreation areas, roadsides, forested areas, riparian areas and pastures.

Control

There are many control methods of Plumeless Thistle.

Mechanical Control:

You may mow twice per season. The best time to mow would be during the growing season before the thistle has flowered.

Biological Control:

Two weevils have been found to help control this thistle. A flower head weevil (*Rhinocyllus conicus*) and a rosette weevil (*Trichosirocalus horridus*). Both have been known to be very effective.



Chemical Control:

Obtain a recommendation from a certified pesticide consultant

You may use:

2,4-K ester at 2-4 lb/per acre

this is most effective when applied 10-14 days before bolting.

Dicamba is also effective at .5 lb/

acre. Picloram is more expensive than the others and may not be used near ground water or during certain seasons. Picloram is most effective at .5 lb/acre.



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