

## Spotted Knapweed

**Native range:** Eastern Europe

**Stem:** grows 2 to 4 feet tall, with small alternate leaves

**Leaves:** are pale green and grow alternatively on the stem 1 to 3 inches long.

**Flowers:** bloom in late June through August. They are pink to a light purple in color and are surrounded by stiff, black bracts giving it its spotted appearance.

**Roots:** has a short taproot system.

**New plants:** are produced only by the seeds. Each plant can produce 1,000 seeds each. Each seed is 1/4 inch long and are brownish seed notched on one side of the base. The seed can still bloom for up to 7 years. And will germinate throughout the growing



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.edu](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu)
- [dnr.wi.gov/invasives](http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives)
- [plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov)

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



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Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District



## Spotted Knapweed: A Noxious Weed

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

Tel: 208-843-2931

## ► Description and Variation

Spotted Knapweed is a biennial (short-lived perennial) forb. It grows between 2 to 4 feet in height. The lower leaves are indented about halfway up to the midrib and are rough. The upper leaves are more linear. All leaves are pale and grow anywhere between 1 and 3 inches long. The pink to purple thistle like flower bloom to be about 3/4 inch wide with black bracts around it giving the spotted appearance. The flower heads grow in late June through August. The brownish seed is about 1/4 inch long and is scattered, along with 1,000 other seeds per plant, during the flowering season.



## History

Spotted Knapweed is an aggressive noxious weed that was introduced to the United States from Europe in 1890 as a contaminant in alfalfa or hay seed.

## Habitat

Spotted Knapweed grows in heavily disturbed areas, road ditches, agricultural field margins, railroad beds, pipelines, prairie sites, oak and pine barrens, lake dunes (sand ridges), and hay sites.



## Control

You can control Spotted Knapweed either chemically or with a biological control

### Biological Control:

There are several Bio-Controls for Spotted Knapweed. This includes two root mining moths, a

flower moth, and a root mining beetle. Their success rate has reduced the seed production by up to 95%.

### Chemical:

This approach requires various reapplications. Obtain a recommendation from a certified pesticide consultant before using herbicides.

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