



## Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)



photo: Beck & Sebastian, CSU Extension

Diffuse knapweed	
<b>General</b>	<p>Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae)</p> <p>Herbaceous</p> <p>Biennial (short lived perennial)</p> <p>Rosettes formed the first year and bolt early in May to June of the next year.</p> <p>Dead plants break off near the ground and tumble.</p>
<b>Habitat</b>	<p>Found in disturbed areas such as overgrazed pastures and rangelands, roadsides, right-of ways, and gravel pits.</p> <p>Prefers dry, light, porous soils. Intolerant of shade and flooding.</p>
PLANT	
<b>Vegetation</b>	<p>Grayish green</p> <p>Contains chemicals that may irritate skin</p> <p>Contains chemicals that may inhibit other plants</p> <p>Mature plants are 1-2 feet tall with numerous single flowerheads at the tips of shoots.</p>
<b>Roots</b>	<p>Tap root</p>
<b>Flower</b>	<p>White and sometimes light purple</p> <p>Second season June - September</p> <p>Small - 0.13 inches wide and 0.5-0.67 long</p> <p>Bracts are comb-like and tipped with a spine</p> <p>Sometimes bracts are dark tipped but can be told apart from Spotted knapweed by the long terminal spine.</p>



# Diffuse Knapweed

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<b>Seed</b>	15,000+ seeds per plant Seed may stay dormant in soil for more than six years Seed spread by plants as they break off at the base and tumble
<b>Seedling</b>	Seedlings spend their first growing season as rosettes.
<b>Reproduction</b>	Seed

<b>CONTROL</b>		
<b>BIOLOGICAL</b>	<i>Agapeta zoegana</i> : root boring moth <i>Cyphocleonus achates</i> , root weevil <i>Larinus minutus</i> , seedhead weevil <i>Sphenoptera jugoslavica</i> , root borer	
<b>CHEMICAL</b>	2,4-D plus Dicamba Curtail, Transline (clopyralid) Milestone (aminopyralid)	Rosette - Spring or fall
	Milestone (aminopyralid) Curtail, Transline (clopyralid) Banvel (dicamba) Tordon (picloram) (restricted use pesticide)	Spring Mid-bolt through late bud stage
<b>CULTURAL</b>	Prevention - Maintain health of site Removal - Hand pulling works when populations are small and isolated. Revegetation of highly disturbed sites Grass competition - Promote grass growth by fertilization, irrigation, reseeding. Cultivation - whenever plants are 3 to 6 inches tall	
<b>MECHANICAL</b>		
<b>Burning</b>	Not effective alone. Conditions usually do not support an effective fire. May promote flush of weeds that can then be treated with herbicide.	
<b>Grazing</b>	Sheep, goats and cattle will eat.	
<b>Mowing</b>	Not effective alone. Plants will regrow from crown and produce as many seeds as un-mown plants.	

<b>Other Info</b>	<a href="http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/03110.pdf">http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/03110.pdf</a>
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