



## Diffuse Knapweed

(*Centaurea diffusa*)



photo: Beck & Sebastian, CSU Extension

### Diffuse knapweed

<b>General</b>	Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae) Native to Eurasia Colorado List B - Control required
<b>Common names</b>	Tumble knapweed
<b>Habitat</b>	Herbaceous biennial to short lived perennial Dead plants break off near the ground and tumble Found in disturbed areas, overgrazed pastures and rangelands, roadsides, rights-of way, and gravel pits Prefers dry, light, porous soils. Intolerant of shade and flooding
<b>PLANT</b>	
<b>Vegetation</b>	Grayish green Contains chemicals that may irritate skin; contains chemicals that may inhibit other plants Mature plants are 1-2 feet tall with numerous single flower-heads at the tips of shoots
<b>Roots</b>	Taproot
<b>Flower</b>	June - September White and sometimes light purple Small - 1/4 inch wide and 3/4 inch long Bracts are comb-like and tipped with a spine Sometimes bracts are dark tipped but can be told apart from Spotted knapweed by the long terminal spine
<b>Seed</b>	15,000+ seeds per plant Seed may stay dormant in soil for more than 6 years Seed spread by plants as they break off at the base and tumble
<b>Seedling</b>	Rosettes formed the first year and bolt early in May to June of the next year

<b>Reproduction</b>	Seed
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<b>CONTROL</b>			
<b>BIOLOGICAL</b>	<i>Agapeta zoegana</i> : root boring moth* <i>Cyphocleonus achates</i> , root weevil* <i>Larinus minutus</i> , seed-head weevil* <i>Sphenoptera jugoslavica</i> , root borer* *Not a control option in eradication zones or when site is under enforcement		
<b>CHEMICAL</b>	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Timing</i>
	Mid-bolt through late bud stage	2,4-D + Dicamba (many) Aminopyralid (Milestone) Clopyralid (Curtail, Transline) Dicamba (Banvel) Picloram (Tordon <i>restricted use</i> )	Spring
	Rosette	2,4-D + Dicamba (many) Clopyralid (Curtail, Transline) Aminopyralid (Milestone)	Spring or Fall
<b>CULTURAL</b>	Prevention - Maintain the health of the site Removal - Hand pulling works when populations are small and isolated. Bag and dispose of flower and seed-heads Grass competition - Promote grass growth by fertilization, irrigation, reseeding Cultivation - whenever plants are 3 to 6 inches tall		
<b>MECHANICAL</b>	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Timing</i>
<b>Burning</b>	N/A	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>	Prior to bud stage	Sheep, goats and cattle will eat	Early spring
<b>Mowing</b>	N/A	Not effective. Plants will regrow from crown and produce as many seeds as un-mown plants.	

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products.

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