

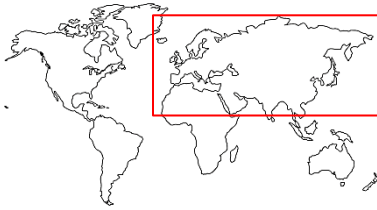
Canada thistle

Cirsium arvense

VERY INVASIVE – established in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: grows in varying habitats, but often found along roadsides and railroad tracks, in ditches and fields, dumps and gravel pits.

Native range: Europe, Asia, and northern Africa



Established in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: 2-6' tall perennial that grows in large clumps connected through a large root system. Stems slender, branching, slightly hairy.



Flowers: purple flowers bloom June-Sept. Grow in inflorescences that are ¾" in diameter and are composed of many small florets.



Leaves: crinkled edges with many spines along the margins. Alternate, pinnately lobed, lance-shaped. Hairy underside.



Seeds: small seeds have a brown tuft for wind dispersal.

CONTROL



Manual: pulling and digging are hard due to extensive root system. Not the most effective control.



Chemical: Milestone, Transline, and Opensight are very effective, especially prior to bolt.



Prescribed fire: can allow grasses to establish; monitor sites to ensure thistle does not germinate.



Biological: a stem mining weevil (*Ceutorhynchus litura*) and stem gall fly (*Urophora cardui*) are approved.



Mechanical: mow plants when 3" tall, and repeat throughout the summer to prevent flowering.



Cultural: restore or reforest sites to provide native competition or shading.