

Plumeless thistle

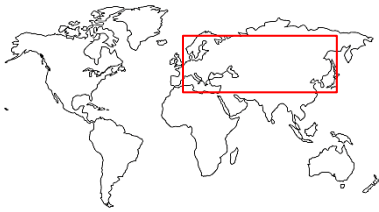
Carduus acanthoides

*Compare to *Carduus nutans* and *Cirsium* species.

VERY INVASIVE – upcoming in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: grows in full sunlight in disturbed soils such as in old fields, roadsides, waste areas, and railroads.

Native range: Europe and Asia



Known in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: herbaceous biennial that grows 3 to 6' tall and is densely spiny. Stems are spiny-winged, and branch many times near the top.



Leaves: leaves are deeply lobed and very spiny. Basal leaves grow up to 8" long. Leaf undersides can be smooth or hairy.



Flowers: flower heads grow ½ to 1" across and consist of many small purple or pink disk flowers. Flower heads are usually solitary. Blooms July-October.

Seeds: seeds are dry and have a fluffy but not feathery pappus.

CONTROL



Manual: hand pulling or digging will control small populations. Be sure to monitor and pull new growth.



Mechanical: repeated mowing will reduce flower and seed production.



Chemical: 2,4-D, aminopyralid, clopyralid, dicamba, picloram, triclopyr, glyphosate, and other chemicals provide good control.



Biological: two seed-feeding insects and one rosette weevil are used as biological control agents.



Cultural: clean equipment and vehicles, and plant native wildflowers and thistles in its place.