

Musk or nodding thistle

Carduus nutans

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

VERY INVASIVE – upcoming in the Arrowhead

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

Native range: Europe



Currently not known in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: herbaceous biennial that grows to be 2-7' tall and overwinters in the rosette stage. Stems are winged and many branched.



Flowers: large flower heads grow 2-3" across and consist of many small purple or pink flowers. Flower heads droop or nod. Blooms June-July.



Leaves: deeply lobed leaves grow up to 15" long. The margins are wavy and spiny



Seeds: dry seeds have a plume to aid in wind dispersal. Plants only reproduce via seeds.

CONTROL



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



Chemical: glyphosate, triclopyr, or metsulfuron are effective in the rosette stage or during the fall.



Mechanical: repeated mowing will reduce flower and seed production.



Biological: thistlehead-feeding weevil and rosette-feeding weevil.



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