

Spotted knapweed

Centaurea stoebe

VERY INVASIVE – established in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: sunny areas that are well-drained, such as gravel or sand. Commonly found on roadsides and disturbed sites.

Native range: Europe and Asia



Established in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: short-lived perennial. Forms basal rosette in year 1; bolts and flowers in year 2. Has a shallow root system and is allelopathic.



Flowers: pink-purple flowers. Bracts beneath the flower are stiff and tipped with darkened hairs. Blooms July-September.



Leaves: dusty blue-green in color and variably highly dissected.



Seeds: reproduces mainly by seed, and can produce about 1,000 seeds per plant. Seeds are dispersed by wind and animals.

CONTROL



Manual: can dig or pull, may re-sprout if any taproot remains. *Can be a skin irritant.*



Chemical: Milestone, Transline, or Opensight have excellent control, especially on rosettes.



Prescribed fire: only very hot burns are effective.



Biological: seedhead (*Larinus* sp.) and root boring (*Cyphocleonus achates*) weevils in place in Cook County.



Mechanical: mowing is not advised; the plant will still flower, but very close to the ground



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