



## Bull thistle

*Cirsium vulgare*



### Bull thistle

<b>General</b>	Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae) Introduced from Europe and Asia <b>Colorado List B - ERADICATION REQUIRED IN JEFFCO</b>
<b>Habitat</b>	Biennial forb Found in drainages, meadows, rights-of way, disturbed sites
<b>PLANT</b>	
<b>Vegetation</b>	Plants 2-6+ feet tall Leaves alternate 3-12 inches long, deeply lobed, tipped with spines Prickly on top with cottony hairs on the underside Leaves on older plants clasp the stem and are divided into segments Stems are winged
<b>Roots</b>	Taproot
<b>Flower</b>	July-September Purple urn-shaped Single at the end of branches 1½ - 2 inches wide and to 2 inches long Bracts covered with spines
<b>Seedling</b>	Rosettes to 3 feet wide
<b>Seed</b>	Up to 4,000 per plant
<b>Reproduction</b>	Seed

<b>CONTROL – CHEMICAL</b>		
<i>Timing</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Spring or Fall Rosette	2,4-D (various) Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective) Aminopyralid (Milestone) Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Clopyralid (Transline) Dicamba (various) Metsulfuron (Escort XP) Picloram (Tordon) Restricted Use Triclopyr (Garlon 3A, Garlon 4)	Use of a surfactant is recommended for most herbicides to help increase contact with the vegetation and to facilitate herbicide uptake. Refer to the specific label for the appropriate type of surfactant.  Treating at the rosette and early bolt stage stops biennial weeds from using resources that desirable plants need to prosper.  Refer to the individual label for allowed sites, specific timing, and restrictions about grazing and haying.  Formulations of more than one active ingredient are available.  For established populations, control will take a few years so treatment will need to be repeated.
Spring to Early Summer To bolting stage	Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective) <b>Aminopyralid (Milestone)</b> Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Clopyralid (Transline) Imazapyr (Arsenal) Metsulfuron (Escort XP) Picloram (Tordon) Restricted Use	

<b>CONTROL -- NON-CHEMICAL</b>		
<i>Technique</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Method</i>
<b>Biological</b>	N/A	
<b>Burning</b>	N/A	
<b>Cultivation</b>	Spring to Fall Rosettes and young plants without flower heads	May need to be repeated throughout the season and on an annual basis until the seedbank is exhausted. May allow more seeds to germinate due to disturbance.
<b>Grazing</b>	N/A	
<b>Mowing</b>	Spring to Early Summer	When flowerbuds form but before flowering. Plants will resprout. Repeat as needed throughout the season. Works best when combined with fall herbicide treatments.
<b>Prevention</b>	Anytime	Maintain the health of the site by encouraging healthy stands of grass.
<b>Removal</b>	Spring to Early Summer Rosette to Bolting	Remove rosettes and young plants before they are more than 8-10 inches tall (before flower buds form). Remove at least the top couple inches of the taproot. Repeat as new rosettes germinate.
	Summer - Flowering	Remove flower heads, bag, and dispose of in the trash or landfill. Sever root a least a couple inches below the soil. Plants without flower buds do not need to be put in the trash.
	Fall - Rosette	Remove rosettes and at least the top couple inches of the taproot.
	Pulling when plants are small results in less bulk and makes disposal easier. Pulling will disturb the soil so it may contribute to more of the seedbank to germinate.	

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. The label will provide specific instructions including allowed sites, application methods, rates, storage, re-entry requirements and personal protective equipment. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products. 9/2021