



Scotch thistle

Onopordum spp.



Scotch thistle	
General	Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae) Native to Europe and eastern Asia Colorado List B - Control required
Habitat	Biennial Found in rangelands, disturbed areas and right-of-ways Likes moist areas Very invasive
PLANT	
Vegetation	Mature plants are up to 12 feet tall Leaves are up to 2 feet long and 1 foot wide Covered with dense hair Stems have spiny wings
Roots	Taproot
Flower	Mid-June through September Violet 1-2 inches wide Spiny bracts
Seed	One plant can produce 20,000 to 40,000 seeds Seeds germinate in the fall and spring May remain viable in soil for over 30 years
Seedling	Rosettes form in spring and fall
Reproduction	Seed

CONTROL			
BIOLOGICAL	None		
CHEMICAL	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Timing</i>
	Rosette	2,4-D (many) Aminopyralid (Milestone) Dicamba (many) Picloram (Tordon 22K - restricted use)	Spring Fall
	Rosette to early-bolt	Clopyralid (Transline) Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Metsulfuron (Cimarron X-tra, Escort) Triclopyr + Clopyralid (Redeem R&P)	Spring
CULTURAL	Prevention Removal Maintain health of site using good grazing management and keeping good cover Revegetation of highly disturbed sites		
MECHANICAL	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Burning	N/A	May cause seeds to germinate	
Grazing	N/A		
Mowing	Prior to flower formation	When used with other methods	Early Spring

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label.
No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products.

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