

Diffuse Knapweed

Diffuse knapweed is a bushy herbaceous tap-rooted biennial or short-lived perennial that grows to about three feet tall. The leaves are alternate and variously covered with short to medium interwoven grayish hairs. The upper leaves are entire and linear; the lower stem leaves are 4 to 8 inches long and deeply pinnate-lobed one to two times. Plants are basal rosettes in fall and winter and bolt to produce erect, highly branched flowering stems in late spring and summer.

The flower heads consist of spiny or comb-like phyllaries and white or pink to pale purple disk flowers. Plants reproduce only by seed. Diffuse knapweed inflorescences detach from the parent plant when stems break off near the ground and tumble along the ground in the wind, dispersing seed to a greater distance than most species. It is not known how long seeds remain viable in the soil, but it is assumed that survival would be, 2 to 5 years, with few seeds surviving longer.



Russian Knapweed

Russian Knapweed is a noxious perennial that can grow to 3 feet tall. The stems are erect, branched, leafy, and mostly covered with gray hairs. The leaves are alternate and do not extend down the stems as wings. Basal and lower stem leaves are mostly oblong, 2 to 5 inches long. Upper stem leaves are narrow, lanceolate to linear, 0.5 to 1.5 inches long.

The flower heads are hemispheric, in panicle-like or flat-topped clusters. They consist of about 30 white, pink, or lavender-blue disk flowers interspersed with bristles on the receptacle. The flower heads remaining on old stems can aid in identification.

Russian knapweed roots can grow several feet deep, branching frequently to form an extensive vertical and horizontal root system. The plant reproduces primarily by vegetative shoots from creeping roots. Root fragments as small as 1 inch can develop into a new plant from depths to 6 inches. Russian knapweed also produces small quantities of seed, which fall near the parent plant. Seeds appear to survive 2 to 3 years.



Knap Weed Control

Chemical Control

The following information about herbicides is only a brief summary. Read and follow the herbicide labels carefully. Contact your local herbicide companies for suggested product and application.

Here are some suggested herbicides that are effective on knapweed:

2,4-D, Dicamba; Clopyralid + 2,4-D; Glyphosate, 2,4-D and aminopyralid + triclopyr

Any herbicide treatment program should rotate among chemicals to prevent developing herbicide-resistant strains of the weed. Please remember when using herbicides the label is the law.

Mechanical control

Hand-pulling small infestations of diffuse knapweed—removing the entire plant—has been effective but must be repeated two to four times a year for several years. Spotted knapweed reproduces vegetative from short lateral roots, so pulling is less effective. Pulled plants must be properly disposed of to prevent spread. Mowing is effective in the bud to early flowering stage, but mowing mature plants will disperse seeds. Also, rosettes are generally too low to be mowed.

<https://www.ci.madras.or.us/publicworks/page/weed-abatement-program>

<https://www.jeffco.net/publicworks/page/weed-control-and-abatement>

Why Should I Care?

Knapweeds can impair wildlife habitat, decrease plant diversity, and increase soil erosion. They also can cause crop losses and reduce forage, decrease the appeal of recreational lands, and pose wildlife hazards. Diffuse knapweed has spines that can damage the mouths and digestive tracts of livestock, significantly reducing forage opportunities.

Knapweeds are a serious problem not only in the City of Madras and to local farmers, but also all of Oregon; because they vigorously invade disturbed or degraded sites and form dense populations that exclude native and desirable plant communities.



Contact Us

If you have questions about Knap Weed control, identification or about other noxious weeds, we can help. Please contact us at:

City of Madras
125 SW E Street
Madras, Oregon 97741
541-475-2344



It is a violation of Section 6 of the Nuisance Ordinance to allow noxious vegetation on the Property. It is the duty of the property owner and/or person in charge of the Property to maintain the Property . Failure to do so may lead to the City abating the identified nuisance in accordance with the Nuisance Ordinance, assess fines of not less than \$500.00 per day, per violation



Knap Weed

