



**Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)**

**Sunflower Family**

- Biennial erect plant rises from a fleshy taproot. A large, flat rosette forms in the first year, and flowers and stems elongate in the second year. Stem grows 2 to 5 feet tall with many spreading branches. Leaves hairy and prickly on upper side, and cottony underneath. Stems have irregular spiny “wings.” Flower heads are 1.5 to 2 inches, urn shaped, purple ray florets. Bracts under flowers are fleshy and tipped with spines.
- Found on disturbed sites, roadsides, and riparian areas. Found in Anchorage and Southeast Alaska.
- **Restricts recreational land use, decreases land value, and competes with native vegetation for water, space, and light.**

