

Spotted Knapweed

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Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe ssp. micranthos*) is a bushy, winter-hardy plant, erect to spreading perennial forb living 3 to 5 years or sometimes longer. A deep taproot supports an initial rosette of bluish-green, woolly dandelion-like leaves. Dead tops remain in winter with new sprouts in spring. Seeds are equipped for dispersal by wind, water, livestock, wildlife and human activity with viability in the soil for many years. Seeds germinate throughout the growing season. Prescribed burning is not recommended.

Recommended control procedures:

Thoroughly wet all leaves with one of the following herbicides in water with a surfactant:

- Milestone as a 0.1-percent solution (0.4 ounces per 3-gallon mix) applied at the spring bolting or fall rosette stages.
- Tordon K* at 0.25 to 0.5 pounds per acre will control spotted knapweed plants and seedlings for 2 to 3 years. Tordon K* should be applied either in fall when the plant is in the rosette growth stage, or in spring during the bud to bloom stage.
- Vanquish* at 1-2 pounds (acid equivalent-see label) per acre. May require annual follow-up treatment for a minimum of two years.
- Overdrive as a 0.2-percent solution (0.6 ounces per 3-gallon mix) plus Tordon 101* as a 4-percent solution (2 pints per 3-gallon mix).
- Garlon 3A at a 2 to 3-percent solution (8 to 12 ounces per 3-gallon mix) 3 to 4 times per year for two years.

* Nontarget plants may be killed or injured by root uptake