

Canada Thistle

Cirsium arvense

Category 4: Low Priority

Relatively widespread. Biocontrol for large infestations. Treat at high priority sites.

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower).

Other Common Names: Field thistle, Californian thistle.

Origin: Eurasia.

Growth Form/Reproduction: Perennial. Seeds and vegetatively from horizontal roots.

Identification: Relatively small (less than 1 cm) flower heads that are in clusters of 1 to 5 per branch. Bracts are spineless. Leaves are spiny and alternate. Stem has no spines. Tends to grow in large patches while bull thistle plants are more solitary.

Legal Status Central Kootenay: WCA (P), FRPA, CCA.

Habitat: Adapted to a wide range of soil types, environmental conditions, and elevations. Best adapted to rich, heavy loam, clay loam, and sandy loam soils; tolerates slightly saline soils. Partially shade tolerant. Roadsides, pastures, fields, meadows, wetlands; utility corridors, forest edges, logged forests, and forest openings.

Status and Distribution: Widespread throughout the Central Kootenay. See reverse for map of recorded locations.

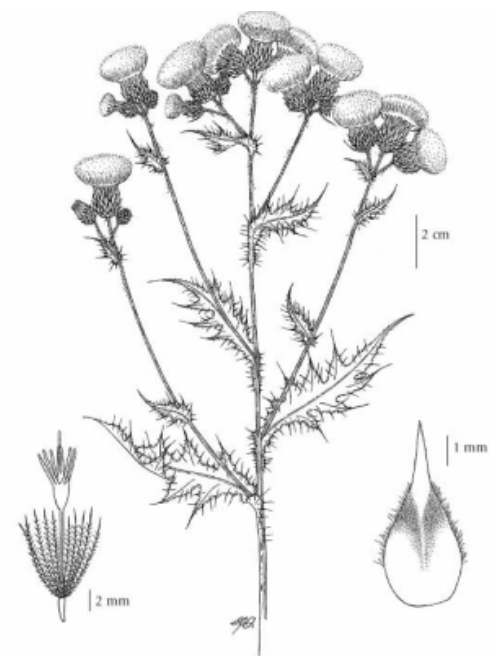
Known Biogeoclimatic Zones: IDFun, ICHdw1, ICHmw2, ICHxw, ESSFwc1

Management Objectives for Central Kootenay:

- Prevention by seeding and minimizing soil disturbance.
- Contain existing populations.

For More Information:

- www.weedsbc.ca/pdf/canada_thistle.pdf



Cirsium arvense var. *horridum*

Credits: Photo from Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Drawing from E-flora.

Last Updated: Jan. 2008

Identification Notes: May be mistaken with other thistles, but Canada thistle has no spines on stem.

Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee
*Infestations of Canada Thistle
in the Central Kootenay*

NOTE: Locations on map primarily depict areas that have been surveyed, rather than actual distribution of Canada thistle (which is widespread).

