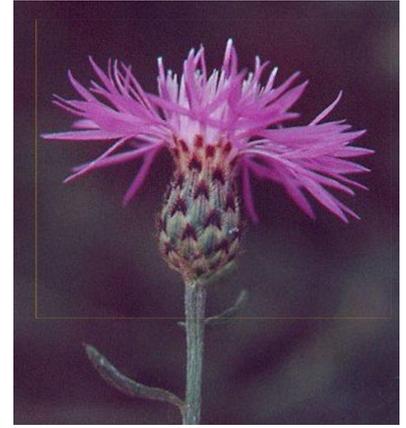


# Spotted Knapweed

(*Centaurea stoebe*)

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** A winter hardy perennial with deep taproots. Mature plants may be 1 to 3 feet in height. Each flower head has stiff bracts, which are black tipped, giving the flower its “spotted” appearance. Flowers are pink to purple and appear from midsummer to fall. Knapweed is spread by seed which not only drops at the base of the plant but can be spread by animals (sticking to their fur), humans (sticking to their clothing) and vehicles (sticking in tire treads and seed heads being caught in doors and fenders).



**WHERE DOES IT GROW?** This alien weed is found in open forests, waste areas and roadside ditches. Knapweeds readily establish themselves on any disturbed soil, and their early spring emergence makes them outgrow and shade out the more desirable plants.

**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** Spotted Knapweed blooms from June to October and spreads entirely by seeds. Heads persist on the stiff stems through the winter. Spotted Knapweed is the most easily recognized weed in Kootenai County.

## **NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:**

- Control existing weeds along fence lines and roadways.
- Knapweed does not thrive in well watered and fertilized areas making it one of the easiest weeds to control with out using chemicals.
- If possible, digging rosettes will kill the plant.
- Mow throughout the summer to keep the seed heads to a minimum.
- Several insect control agents are actively working on this plant in North Idaho: the broad-nosed seed head weevil; the UV knapweed seed head fly and banded gall fly; the seed head moth; the knapweed root weevil; and the lesser knapweed flower weevil.

## **CHEMICAL CONTROL:**

- Using herbicides during the rosette stage (spring and fall) is most effective.

## **TIMING OF CONTROL METHODS:**

- ✓ Spring – Dig, Pull, and/or Spray
- ✓ Summer – Mow
- ✓ Fall – Dig, Pull, and/or Spray

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**  
**10905 N. Ramsey Road, Hayden, ID 83835**  
**208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145**  
**[kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us](mailto:kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us) or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)**

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.*