

Meadow Knapweed

BOTANICAL NAME: *Centaurea x moncktonii*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Meadow Knapweed is a hybrid of black and brown Knapweed, so it can have variable characteristics. It typically grows 1 to 4 feet tall. It has single 1" wide pink or purple flowers at the ends of its branches. The flowers look similar to Spotted Knapweed but have brown papery bracts. The leaves are entire (undivided) and can be 6" long at the bottom of the plant, smaller towards the top.



Nancy Ness 2001



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WHERE DOES IT TO GROW?

It typically grows in moist soils such as forest openings, stream banks, pastures, waste areas, meadows and similar areas.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?

It blooms from May through August.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? Meadow Knapweed reproduces mostly by seed, but pieces of the root crown can also survive and reestablish.

WHY IS IT A NOXIOUS WEED? It is an aggressive invader of pastures and meadows, pushing out native vegetation and valuable forage and habitat.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT?

See the reverse side for information on mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control options for Meadow Knapweed. Also see our Chemical Application handout for more information on using herbicides.

Need More Information? Call:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290

kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or www.kcweeds.com



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How to Control Meadow Knapweed

Meadow Knapweed is a perennial that reproduces by seed as well as root crown fragments.

Mechanical Digging/pulling 2-4 times per year can control small infestations. Care must be taken to remove as much of the root as possible. Mowing is not effective.

Cultural The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Killing weeds is only one step, you have to also replace them with something good. Seed and fertilize so your grass can take nutrients away from the weeds and not leave available open soil for new weeds to germinate.

Biological Some Spotted Knapweed biocontrol agents have been known to also attack Meadow Knapweed. *Larinus minutus* appears the most promising. Contact Nez Perce Biocontrol Center for more information (208)843-9374 or nezpercebiocontrol.com.

Chemical * See our *Chemical Treatment* handout for more information on using herbicides.

- **Aminopyralid** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Milestone**. It is broadleaf selective (safe on grasses) and has a long residual. It can be effective on Meadow Knapweed when applied during the rosette to bolting stages.
- **Clopyralid** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Transline** and **Stinger**. It is broadleaf selective, safe on most conifer trees, and can be effective on Meadow Knapweed when applied in spring during the bolting stage.
- **Picloram** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Tordon 22K**. It is broadleaf selective and can be effective on Meadow Knapweed but it is federally restricted and requires a license to buy or apply.

Chemical recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 [Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites](#), the book [Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States](#) published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.