



PURPLE STARHISTLE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Centaurea calcitrapa*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Purple Starthistle is actually a type of knapweed but has a "star" of sharp spines around each flower so it resembles a thistle. The flower heads can be white, pink, or purple. The stems are branched, creating a bush 1 to 6 feet tall. The leaves are lance shaped and can have wavy or lobed edges. The stems and leaves are covered with white hairs. It is very similar to Iberian Starthistle, but Purple Starthistle seeds do not have a plume of bristles.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? It is native to southeast Europe and southwest Asia. It grows in a variety of soil types including nutritionally deficient soils, and tolerates drought well. Fields, roadsides, wasteland areas.



WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? It can grow as an annual or biennial, beginning with a basal rosette and then bolting to flower and then die. It flowers during July and August.

WHY IS IT A NOXIOUS WEED? It's spines make it unpalatable to grazing animals, and it can displace valuable native forage. In addition to lowering the grazing value of land, the spines discourage movement of wildlife, lowering access to habitat and forage.

CONTROL: Purple Starthistle is on Idaho's EDRR (Early Detection & Rapid Response) list, which is the highest priority of all noxious weeds. We must not allow EDRR species to become established in Idaho. If you find it please report it as soon as possible to Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control so we can positively identify it, map its location, and assist you in eradicating it.

Want more information? Contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290
kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or 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.