

● ● ● | Canada Thistle



Canada thistle is a member of the Aster family. Canada thistle was introduced from Europe. It is a creeping perennial, which reproduces by seeds and fleshy, horizontal roots.

The erect stem is hollow, smooth and slightly hairy, 1 to 5 feet tall, simple, and branched at the top. The color is primarily lavender, pink, or purple.

Infestations are found in cultivated fields, riparian areas, pastures, rangeland, forests, lawns and gardens, roadsides, and in waste areas.

Because of its seeding habits, vigorous growth, and extensive underground root system, control or eradication is difficult.

IMPORTANT:

Contact the NRCS office
before
completing any management
measures on your CRP, RIM,
CREP land.

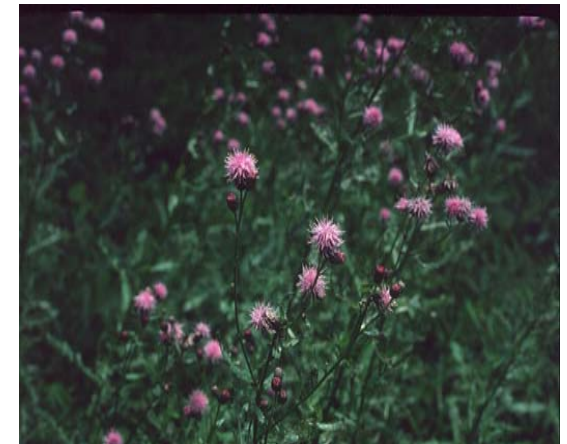
**Natural Resources
Conservation
Service &
Lyon Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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Canada Thistle Management



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Treatment Recommendations

- Herbicide applications are the most effective treatment.
- Thistles are most susceptible to herbicides while in the rosette stage, (*spring and fall*).
- *Fall*, after crop harvest, is a good time to treat thistles.
- Fall treatment will prevent shoot growth and block the replenishment of underground food reserves.
- Treat *new seedlings* in the spring.
- Broadcast treatment is *not recommended* because chemical treatment will destroy forbs in planting.
- Spot spray *only* problem areas.
- Clipping *alone* is not an effective management tool.
 - ✓ When clipping use a stock chopper or rotary mower
 - ✓ A sickle type mower is not recommended

Landowners:

It is your responsibility to control noxious weeds on your:

RIM (Reinvest In Minnesota)

CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)

CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)

Canada thistle:

~ is one of the biggest problem weeds in the area.

This “Primary Noxious Weed” is the most prevalent broadleaf perennial weed in the state.

Perennial weeds are more difficult to control than annuals because they persist and spread by vegetative means as well as seeds. Stems, roots and tubers store food and produce new shoots whenever the top growth is killed by control practices or freezing temperatures.

The key to Canada thistle control is to stress the plant and force it to use stored root nutrients.



Contact your chemical dealer for guidance in chemical treatments to use for what is established in the area. Active ingredients to look for include:

- ✓ Clopyralid
- ✓ Dicamba (alone or in combination with 2,4-D)
- ✓ Tricopyr + Clopyralid
- ✓ Glyphosate
- ✓ Metsulfuron

Be sure to contact the NRCS/SWCD office before doing any management measures on your CRP, CREP or RIM acres

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