

Canada thistle

Cirsium arvense



- Rosette present every spring
- Perennial that re-grows each year from a massive, spreading root system 15 ft. deep
- Stem is hollow, erect and covered with fine hairs 1-4 ft. tall
- Leaves lance shaped, spine tipped lobes, hairless or fine hairs present
- Flowers pink to purple, 1/2-3/4 in. width
- Flowers June through August
- Seeds are 40% viable

Negative Impacts

- Canada thistle is an aggressive weed found throughout Colorado
- Impacts agricultural production
- Infestations reduce or eliminate wildlife use



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Canada thistle

Chemical Control (always add non-ionic surfactant @ 1 oz for each 3 gallons of water)

Application timing for all products:

- Apply in late Spring to plants in the pre-bud growth stage or in the fall at frost
- Use higher rates during drought or poor growing conditions

Milestone (Aminopyralid)

- Hand Spraying Mix: 1oz in 3 gallons of water
- 5 to 7 oz per acre

Redeem (Clopyralid + Triclopyr)

- 3 to 4 pints per acre

Tordon (Picloram-Restricted Use)

- 1 to 2 pints per acre

Telar (Chlorsulfuron, non-crop)

- 1 to 3 oz per acre

For solid infestations scheduled for replanting:

Roundup, Rascal, etc. (41% Glyphosate)

- 2 to 3 quarts per acre

Mechanical Control:

Mowing at bud stage of growth twice during the growing season followed by fall applied herbicides on full re-growth is the best management practice.

Mowing alone is ineffective.

Roto tilling, disking and plowing increases density and is ineffective

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