

# Diffuse knapweed

*Centaurea diffusa*



- Typically biennial, sometimes an annual or short-lived perennial that reproduces by seed
- Seeds germinate in late summer or spring, forming a taprooted rosette
- Plants bolt in mid-spring and flower July-August and are 1 to 3 ft. tall
- Flowers are mostly white, sometimes lavender
- Seedheads are deciduous
- Becomes a “tumble knapweed” in winter
- Spiny seedheads are easily moved to new locations as they readily attach to animals, footwear, vehicle floor mats, carpeting and tires

## Negative Impacts

- Reduces agricultural production
- A problem weed on rights-of-way, pastures and rangelands
- Infestations reduce or eliminate wildlife use



Colorado  
State  
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Extension

## **Diffuse knapweed**

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

### **2,4-D Amine**

- 1 to 2 quarts per acre
- Rosette to early bolting

### **Milestone** (Aminopyralid)

- Hand Spray: Mix 1oz to 3 gallons of water
- Broadcast: 5 to 7 oz per acre
- Rosette to bolting stage or in the Fall

### **Redeem R&P** (Clopyralid + Triclopyr)

- 1.5 to 2 quarts per acre
- Rosette to early bolting

### **Tordon** (Picloram—Restricted Use)

- 1 to 2 pints per acre
- Spring before or during bolting or in the Fall at frost

### **Mechanical Control:**

- Hand pull or cut taproot at least 5 inches below soil to prevent re-growth
- Pull before flowering and seed formation
- If plants are flowering or beyond, carefully bag and dispose of in landfill

**Stopping flowering and seed production is critical for success. Mowing is ineffective.**

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**[www.laplataweeds.org](http://www.laplataweeds.org)**