

# Spotted knapweed

*Centaurea maculosa*



- 3 to 5 year life cycle with stout taproot
- Stems are upright, rigid, with one or more branches; 1-3 ft. tall
- Flower pinkish-purple, usually single at end of branches with dark bracts
- Flowers June-October
- Reproduces by seed with over 90% germination rate. 1400-2400 seeds per large plant
- Seeds have a parachute-like structure about 1/8 in. long

## Negative Impacts

- Impacts agricultural production
- A problem weed in rangelands, forest, pastures and rights-of-way
- Established in every Montana county in 60 years
- Infestations eliminate elk habitat and reduce other wildlife use



Colorado  
State  
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Extension

## **Spotted 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)

- 5 to 7 fl oz per acre
- Hand Spray: Mix 1oz in 3 gallons of water
- Rosette to bolting stage or fall frost

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

- 0.75 to 1 quart 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
- Do not use Tordon near trees, desirable shrubs or water

### **Mechanical Control:**

- Hand pull or cut taproot at least 5 inches below soil to prevent re-growth before flowering and seed formation
- If seed heads are flowering or beyond, carefully bag plants 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)**