



Meadow Knapweed

Scientific Name:	<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>
Weed Class:	B
Requirement:	Control
Other Names:	Hybrid Knapweed
Native To:	Europe
Toxicity:	Not known to be

Why is it a noxious weed?

Meadow knapweed is an aggressive invasive species that dominates pastures and meadows. It outcompetes desirable forage plants as well as other native plants species.

How would I identify it?

General Description

As a hybrid between black knapweed and brown knapweed, meadow knapweed can have variable characteristics between the parent plants. It is a perennial that typically grows between 1 and 5 feet tall.

Flower Description

Flower heads are solitary and terminal on branch tips. Bracts at the base of flower heads are light to dark brown and have papery, fringed margins. Bracts have a metallic gold sheen when plants are flowering. Flowers are rose purple to white.

Leaf Description

Leaves not divided, up to 6 inches long and 1.25 inches wide with smooth or slightly lobed or toothed margins. Leaves decrease in size up the stem.

Stem Description

Upright and either unbranched or sparingly branched, terminating in a single flower head. Stems may have some soft hairs.

Fruit/Seed Description

Seeds are white to light brown in color and may have a short row of hairs on one end.

Where does it grow?

Meadow knapweed occurs in meadows and pastures, forest openings, roadsides, waste areas and floodplains of rivers and streams.

How does it reproduce?

Meadow knapweed reproduces from seed and also can re-sprout from root crowns.



How do I control Meadow Knapweed?

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to research, plan for, and use a combination of prevention and control methods specific to the problem weed. This approach is called **Integrated Weed Management (IWM)**, which uses mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control methods that effectively treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

IWM Control Method		Effectiveness of Control Method			Timing and Notes **
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Digging		G			Remove as much of the root system as possible.
Hand-Pulling			F		Can be effective when plants are young and small.
Mowing				P	If mowed during flowering, will reduce seed crop but ineffective as a long-term strategy. Knapweed often flowers and seeds below mow height.
Tilling			F		Cultivation that buries plant and root parts under a depth of 2 inches can be effective. After tilling, sowing a cover crop is recommended.
Bark Mulch				P	Not effective as a sole control method.
Black Plastic		G			
Cover Crop				P	As a second control method following tilling or herbicide, a cover crop may limit germination and spread. A cover crop alone is likely ineffective.
Native Plant Restoration				P	Not effective as a sole control method.
Soil Amendments				P	Not effective as a sole control method.
Managed Grazing			F		Though the knapweed will not be eliminated, grazing by sheep during flowering can greatly reduce seed formation.
Weed-Feeding Insects				P	Contact our office for more information.
Herbicides - (Examples*)		<i>For most effective control, apply herbicides before plants bloom.</i>			
Aminopyralid	Milestone	G			Apply both spring (May) and fall (October) to actively growing plants. Effective until plant is in bud stage. Do not spray while in flower.
Glyphosate	Roundup, Aqua-Neat	G			Apply both spring (May) and fall (October) to actively growing plants. Effective until plant is in bud stage. <i>Glyphosate will also kill grass.</i>
Triclopyr	Lilly Miller Brush Killer; Vastlan		F		Apply both spring (May) and fall (October) to actively growing plants. Effective until plant is in bud stage. Do not spray while in flower.

*Brand names are listed as examples only. Other products may contain the listed chemical. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. Always read and follow the herbicide label.

****Timing of control is critical!** Herbicide treatments are often not effective or appropriate when plants are in flower. If the weeds have produced seed, bag the plants and place in garbage, not compost. Regardless of control method chosen, multiple treatments may be needed each year. For more information on IWM, specific herbicides, and timing of control, please contact the Weed Board at:



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