

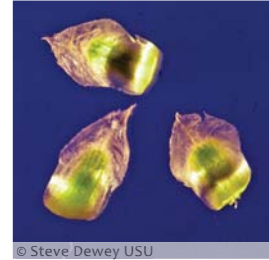


that can grow to become independent plants. Once rosettes emerge in the spring, remaining root buds slough-off until they develop again in late summer. Additionally, root fragments can develop into new plants.

Russian knapweed is allelopathic, which means it contains a toxic substance that inhibits the growth of competing plants. This weed may also be toxic to horses resulting in serious injury or possibly death of the animal. Russian knapweed displaces native vegetation and reduces forage values on range and pasturelands.

Habitat for Russian knapweed includes roadsides, ditch banks, riparian zones, pastures, rangeland, saline soils, clear cuts, and cropland. It typically invades degraded areas and sites with full sun.

The most effective method of control for Russian knapweed is to prevent its establishment through proper land management. Maintain healthy pastures and rangeland and continually monitor your property for new infestations. If Russian knapweed is already established, using an integrated weed management approach proves to be effective. Russian knapweed can be managed with herbicides or biocontrol insects, but long-term control must include planting competitive plant species to occupy bare ground once infested by the weed. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.



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Black, scaly root



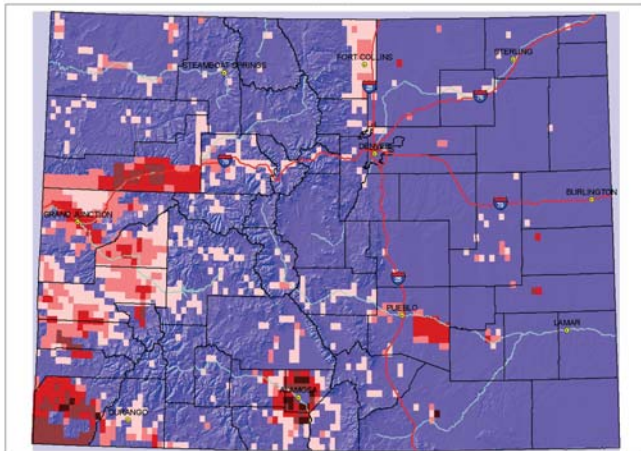
Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) is a non-native, deep-rooted perennial that spreads by aggressive, creeping, horizontal roots (rhizomes) and seeds. The roots are brown to black with a scaly appearance. Russian knapweed can grow up to 3 feet in height. The stems and leaves are covered with short gray hairs. The flowers are urn-shaped, pink to purple in color, and are solitary at the tips of the upper branches. Russian knapweed can be distinguished from other knapweeds by the smooth, papery, rounded bracts that surround the flowers. Russian knapweed emerges in early spring after soil temperatures remain above freezing. It produces flowers from June to August and sets seed in late summer to early fall. The seeds are viable for two to three years. Russian knapweed reproduces primarily from its root system. Buds on the horizontal roots can form adventitious shoots, August through the winter,

Russian knapweed

Acroptilon repens

2008 Quarter Quad Survey

Russian knapweed
Acroptilon repens
2008 Quarterquad Survey
Distribution and Abundance
in Colorado
132,466+ Infested Acres



Distribution Legend: 0 ACRES/0Q 1-5 6-50 51-300 301-1000 1001-5000
Acreage estimates supplied by county weed supervisors and compiled by the Colorado Department of Agriculture

Russian knapweed is redesignated as a “List B” species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eliminated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds and click on the Noxious Weed Program link or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-869-9030.

Key ID Points

1. Distinguished from other knapweeds by the flower’s smooth, papery bracts.
2. Roots are brown to black with scaly appearance.
3. Rosettes and lower leaves deeply lobed.
4. Upper leaves are smaller, smooth margined, and not lobed.

Integrated Weed Management Recommendations

The most effective control for Russian knapweed is to prevent its establishment through proper land management. An integrated weed management approach can be effective when dealing with Russian knapweed. It can be managed with herbicides or insects, but long-term control must include planting competitive plant species to occupy bare ground once infested by the weed.



CULTURAL

Maintain healthy pastures and prevent bare spots caused by overgrazing. Bare ground is prime habitat for weed invasions. Establishing sod-forming grasses or vegetation with dense shade can be an effective cultural control of Russian knapweed. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service for seed mix recommendations.

BIOLOGICAL

The gall midge, *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, is a fly that lays eggs in the shoot tips of Russian knapweed. It forms galls that reduce flowering, seed production, and stunts the plants' growth. This biocontrol will stress the stand of Russian knapweed but will not likely eliminate it. The Colorado Department of Agriculture - Palisade Insectary, 970-464-7916, is currently establishing this biocontrol. It is not yet available to the public.

MECHANICAL

Mowing several times before the plants bolt stresses Russian knapweed and forces it to use nutrient reserves stored in the root system. However, mowing alone will not eliminate the infestation and it can stimulate shoot sprouting the following year. Mowing combined with a fall herbicide application will enhance control. Tilling and disking can create root fragments that can sprout. However, repeated deep tillage (1 foot) over 3 years can kill much of the root system.

CHEMICAL

The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. Please read label for exact rates. The herbicide label is the LAW!

Herbicide	Rate	Application Timing
Aminopyralid* (Milestone)	7 oz. product/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply in the fall when above-ground stems die back and root buds are highly susceptible. Can also apply in the bud to senescence stages or in the spring during early bolt before flower buds form.
Aminocyclopyrachlor + Chlorsulfuron (Perspective)*	4-5 oz. product/acre + 1% v/v methylated seed oil	Apply in the fall when above-ground stems die back and root buds are highly susceptible. Can also apply in the bud to senescence stages or in the spring during early bolt before flower buds form. IMPORTANT: Applications greater than 5.5 oz. product/acre exceeds the threshold for selectivity. DO NOT treat in the root zone of desirable trees and shrubs. Not for use on grazed or feed forage. Not for use on grazed or feed forage.

Note: *Product not permitted for use in the San Luis Valley. **This herbicide has residual soil activity that will affect all broadleaf seedlings germinating after application has occurred.

Additional herbicide recommendations for this and other species can be found at:

www.colorado.gov/agconservation/CSUHerbicideRecommendations.pdf

Russian knapweed

Acrotilon repens