



Flowers bloom from June to October and seed-set usually occurs by mid-August. Spotted knapweed can also reproduce vegetatively from lateral roots.

Spotted knapweed tends to invade disturbed, overgrazed areas. It also occurs in grasslands, pastures, foothill clearings, logged areas, roadsides, sandy soils, and floodplains. Since it can tolerate both dry conditions and moist areas it is an especially versatile invader. Spotted knapweed and diffuse knapweed infestations often occur together in Colorado and plants can hybridize. Once established, spotted knapweed reduces livestock and wildlife forage by out-competing native and desirable species.

The most effective method of control for spotted knapweed is to prevent seed production and establishment through proper land management. Maintain healthy pastures, rangeland, and forests; and continually monitor for new infestations. If spotted knapweed is already established, applying an integrated weed management approach is effective. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Spotted knapweed is designated as a “List B” species as described in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to either be eliminated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information please visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds) and click on the Noxious Weed Program link or call the State Weed Coordinator, Colorado Department of Agriculture at 303-869-9030.

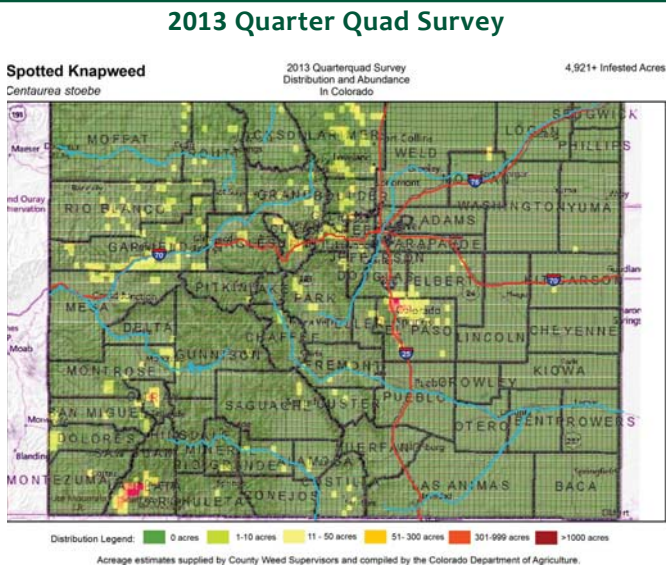


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# Spotted Knapweed

*Centaurea stoebe*



### Key ID Points

1. Floral bracts have black tips, with comb-like spines of equal length.
2. Flowers are pink to purple, and rarely white.
3. Basal and stem leaves are deeply lobed, but become simple and oblong towards the tips of the stem.

# Integrated Weed Management Recommendations

Spotted knapweed is best controlled at the rosette stage with mechanical or chemical techniques in the spring and fall. A key goal is to prevent seed production. Management must be intense and persistent in order to deplete the seed bank in the soil.



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Hybrid spotted-diffuse knapweed flower



## CULTURAL

Bareground is prime habitat for weed invasions. Maintaining healthy pastures and forests, while minimizing disturbance and overgrazing, is crucial. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service for seed mix recommendations.

## BIOLOGICAL

Root and seed head weevils (*Cyphocleonus achates* and *Larinus minutus*) attack the roots and reduce seed production in spotted and diffuse knapweeds. This is an option for large infestations, though optimum results take 3-5 years. To obtain the insects, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Insectary in Palisade, Colorado at 970-464-7916.

## MECHANICAL

Dig when the soil is moist; remove the root crown, 2-4 inches of taproot, and lateral roots. Digging alone requires several years of multiple treatments within a growing season. Mowing spotted knapweed when flower buds or early flowers are present will stress the plant, but not kill it. Do not mow after seed-set because it can disperse the seeds. Annual cultivation can eliminate spotted knapweed.

## CHEMICAL

The table below includes recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to rangeland and some pastures. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

Herbicide	Rate	Application Timing
Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective)*	4.75-8 oz. product/acre + 0.25% non-ionic surfactant	Pre-emergence or from seedling to mid-rosette stage. 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.
Aminopyralid* (Milestone)	5-7 oz./acre + 0.25% non-ionic surfactant	Spring at rosette to early bolt stage and/or in the fall to rosettes. Add 1 qt./acre 2,4-D or 3 oz. Perspective when treating in the bolting to flowering growth stages.
Clopyralid (Transline)	0.67-1.33 pints/acre + 0.25% non-ionic surfactant	Apply to spring/fall rosettes before flowering stalk lengthens. Add 1 qt./acre 2,4-D when treating in the bolting to flowering growth stages.

Note: \*Product not permitted for use in the San Luis Valley.

Additional herbicide recommendations for this and other species can be found at: [www.colorado.gov/agconservation/CSUHerbicideRecommendations.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/agconservation/CSUHerbicideRecommendations.pdf)

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