



Spotted knapweed (Matt Lavin)

*****NOXIOUS WEED ALERT*****

The Knapweeds

Multiple species of knapweeds are present in Oregon, each with their own challenges and impacts. Spotted, diffuse, meadow and Russian knapweeds are all Class B noxious weeds in Oregon.

Why is it a problem?

Knapweeds aggressively invade disturbed or degraded sites and form dense populations that exclude native and desirable plant communities. Their ability to spread rapidly by seeds and roots makes control very difficult and economic/ecological losses can be huge. Russian knapweed and related yellow starthistle can even cause serious diseases in horses, if consumed.

While diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) is typically a short-lived biennial or annual; meadow, spotted and Russian knapweeds are all hearty perennials.

Established populations have robust seedbanks and management is usually a multi-year process. This can be very expensive over large tracts of land.

What Can You Do?

A combination of IPM techniques can be very effective at controlling knapweed species. Depending on site conditions and the scope of invasion, hand-pulling and chemical spot treatments are usually enough as long as the area is revegetated afterwards.

Russian knapweed can be more difficult than other species due to its deep taproot. Well-timed herbicide applications are typically most effective in this case. Please contact your local SWCD or OSU Extension office for guidance on products that are effective.

As always, prevention is the most important action we can take. Limiting disturbance and bare soils are essential.

For more Best Management Practices, please check out these resources:

[OSU Extension Info Sheet](#)

[ODA Profile \(Diffuse\)](#)

[ODA Profile \(Meadow\)](#)

The Western Invasives Network is asking for your help in identifying populations of Knapweed in Oregon.

How Do I Report Knapweed?

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

-or-

Contact [your local CWMA](#)



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This large diffuse knapweed is almost ready to release thousands of seeds that will be carried on the wind throughout the Willamette Valley. (Photo: Jenny Meisel)



The swollen ovary of a flowering Russian knapweed. The large bracts below the flower are a key ID characteristic on knapweeds. (Max Licher)