



CANADA THISTLE

Cirsium arvense



IDENTIFICATION

Flowers are clusters of small, purple heads $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. Leaves have wavy margins with prickles along edges; not as hairy as bull thistle. Stems can be slightly hairy or without hairs.

IMPACTS

Can spread by rhizomatous roots, making it very difficult to eradicate. May form dense stands in overgrazed pastures, not palatable to livestock and reduces forage potential. Can reduce the growth of tree seedlings.

MANAGEMENT

Repeated and frequent pulling or hand-cutting of individual plants may eventually reduce small infestations, but typically promotes the growth of rhizomatous plants and is not advised for larger infestations. Mow repeatedly throughout the season to prevent seed production prior to flowering. Avoid mowing in full flower, as cut flowers may still form viable seeds. Replace with Douglas aster.



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The Cooperative Weed Management Area partnership connects land managers, increases awareness, and supports collaborative efforts. Visit us at marionswcd.net/what-we-offer/mid-willamette-cwma/.