

DIFFUSE KNAPWEED

ABOUT

Diffuse Knapweed – *Centaurea diffusa*

Diffuse Knapweed has been classified in the List B category of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. A tap-rooted plant that is a biennial forb reproducing by seeds only. Following seed production, the plant dries out and takes the form of a tumbleweed, spreading seeds great distances.

Rosette: leaves are flat, finely divided, silver-green, 1-2" wide and up to 8" long. Rosettes germinate in the spring and fall, bolt mid-spring to early summer.

Flowers: July-September, usually white, sometimes lavender, ¼" wide and to ¾" long on spiny bracts with a distinct central spine and fringed comb-like edges.

Seeds: Light brown to black, with a scaly pappus.

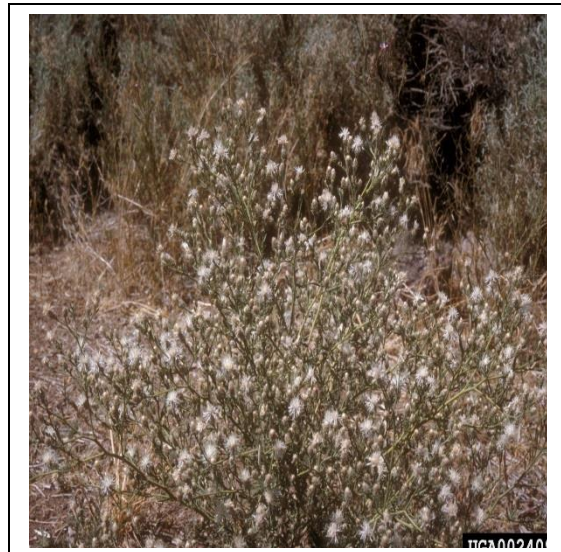
Leaves: Basal leaves are stalked and divided into narrow, hairy segments. Stem leaves are smaller, alternate, less divided, stalkless, and become bract-like near the flower clusters.

Stems: Upright, 4-24 "tall, highly branched, angled, with sort, stiff hairs on the angles.

Plant grows into a single stem, erect and branching to 1 ½ - 3 ½' tall usually into a ball shape.



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MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL

Mechanical: Hand-pulling is effective, as long as plants with seed heads are bagged and disposed. Diffuse knapweed can cause a rash on skin, so wear gloves. Sever the taproot below ground prior to flowering. Mowing is effective at full-bloom; plant parts must be disposed of properly as seed can still develop on cut plants.

Biological: Insects listed below provide good control when used together, but may take 3 to 5 years to establish and achieve optimum results. Seedhead weevil – *Larinus minutus* and Root weevil *Cyphocleonus achates*.

Chemical: For the most appropriate herbicide recommendations check with your local weed management applicator or university extension program.

Aminocyclopyrachlor: Brand name: Method 240SL. Use as a pre-emergent or apply from seedling to mid-rosette stage. Not labeled for use in range and pasture with livestock.

Aminopyralid: Brand name: Milestone. Rosette to early bolt stage (spring) and /or in the fall to the rosettes.

Clopyralid: Brand name: Transline. Apply in spring or fall to rosettes before flowering stalk lengthens.

Clopyralid + Triclopyr: Brand name: Prescott. Optimal treatment time is mid-bolt.