



## Canada Thistle

(Cirsium arvense)

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act requires every landowner to **eradicate, contain or suppress this weed** wherever it is found on his or her property. The Colorado Department of Transportation controls these weeds on its right-of-way.

Canada thistle is a deep-rooted perennial forb that grows 2 to 4 feet tall. It spreads by seeds and aggressive, creeping roots (rhizomes). The leaves are bright green, oblong and spiny. They are slightly hairy on the under-surface. Flowerheads are purple and borne in clusters of 1 to 5 per branch. The heads are about 0.75 inch wide.

For control, mow every 10 to 21 days to stress the plant by exhausting its nutrients throughout the growing season. Do not let the plant go to seed. More details about this species and herbicides to control it are available online at <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds>.

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