



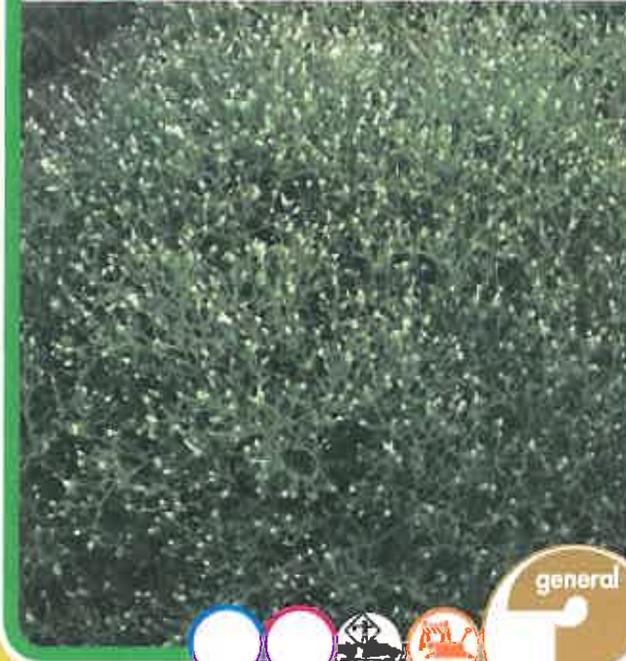
Diffuse Knapweed
Centaurea diffusa



05-0214-11



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Diffuse Knapweed

(Centaurea diffusa)

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.

Diffuse knapweed is a biennial forb that grows 1 to 3 feet tall. It is diffusely branched above ground, giving it a ball-shaped appearance. Flowerheads are about 0.1 inch in diameter and 0.5 to 0.7 inch long. Flowers are mostly white, sometimes purple, urn-shaped, and are located on each branch tip. Bracts that enclose the flowerheads are divided like the teeth of a comb, and are tipped with a distinct slender spine.

Since each plant can produce up to 18,000 seeds, the key to effective control of this weed is to prevent it from flowering and going 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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