

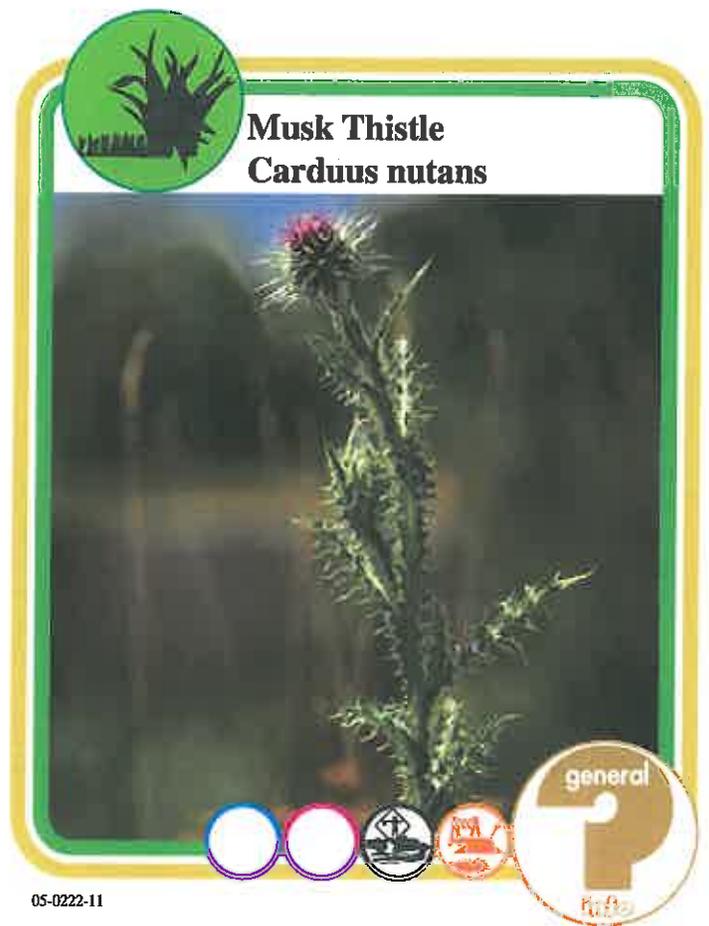


**Musk Thistle**  
**Carduus nutans**

05-0222-11

general  
info

This card features a central photograph of a Musk Thistle (Carduus nutans) with a single pink flower head. The card is framed with a green border and a yellow outer border. In the top-left corner, there is a circular icon with a green background and a black silhouette of the plant. At the bottom, there are four small circular icons: a blue one, a pink one, a black one with a white symbol, and an orange one with a white symbol. To the right of these icons is a large circular icon with a brown background, a white question mark, and the words 'general' and 'info'.



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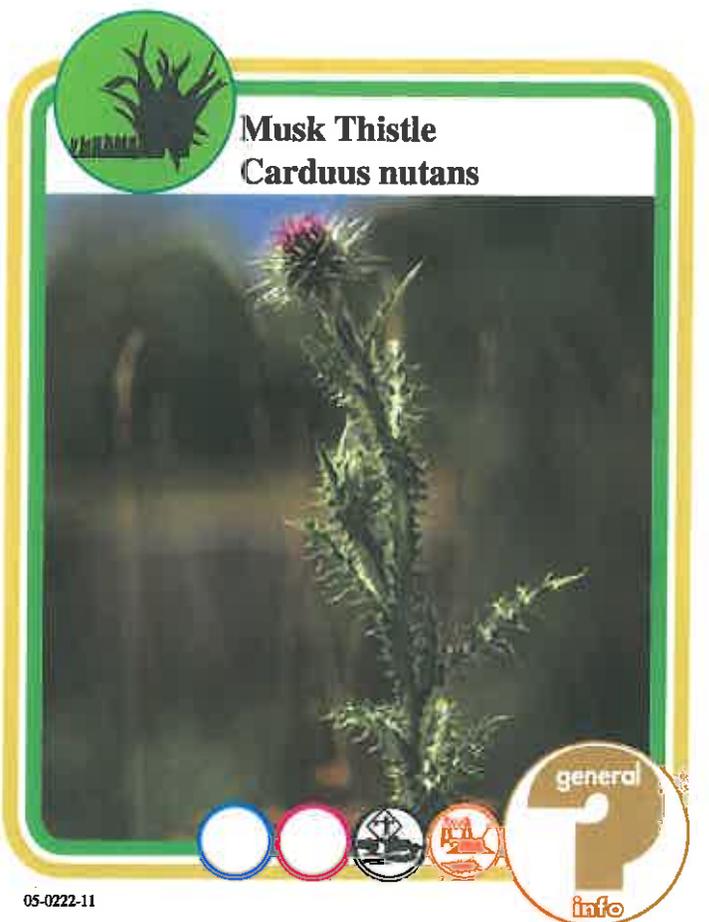


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## Musk Thistle

(Carduus nutans)

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.

Musk thistle is a biennial forb that can grow to 6 feet tall. During the first year, the plant appears as a rosette. During the second year, it sends up a stem, flowers, sets seed, and then dies. A robust plant may produce 100 or more flowering heads. The flowers are purple, large in size (1.5 to 3 inches in diameter), nodding, and terminal. The flowers are surrounded by lance-shaped, spine-tipped bracts.

Any mechanical or physical method that severs the root below the soil surface will kill Musk thistle. More details about this species and herbicides to control it are available online at <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds>.

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