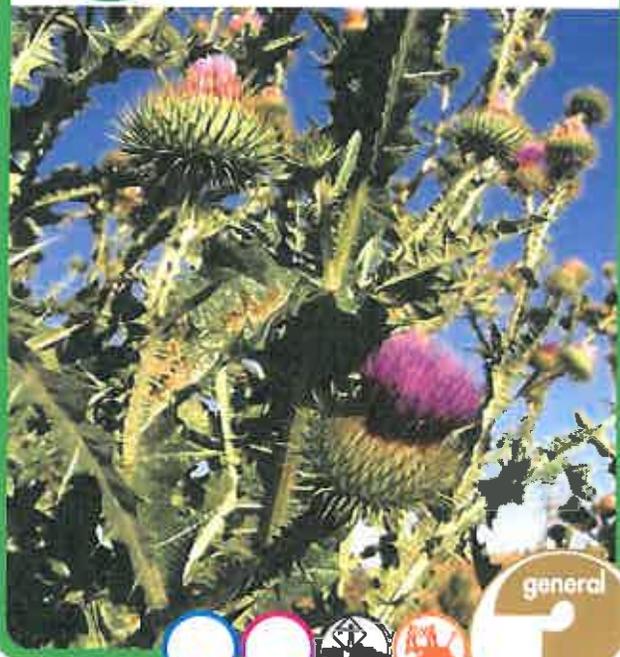




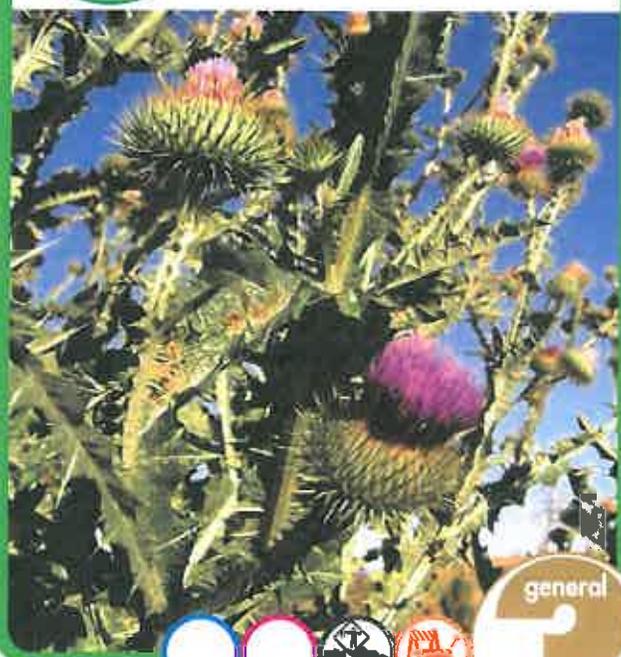
Scotch Thistle  
*Onopordum acanthium*



05-0231-11



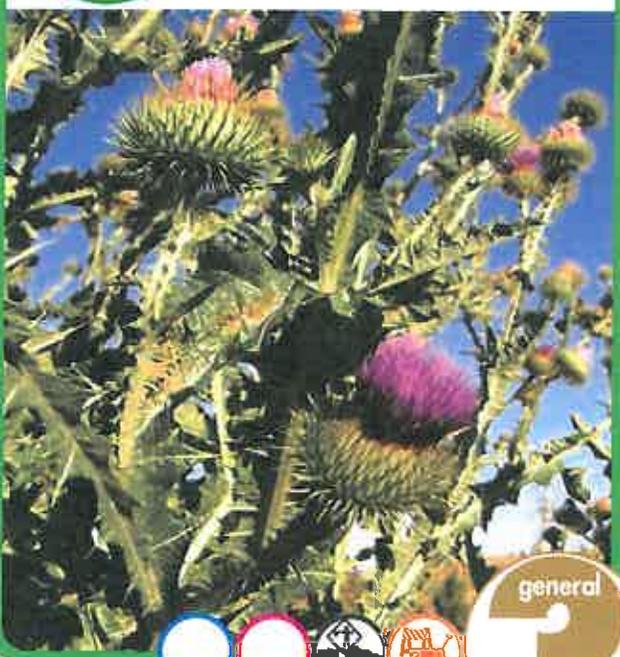
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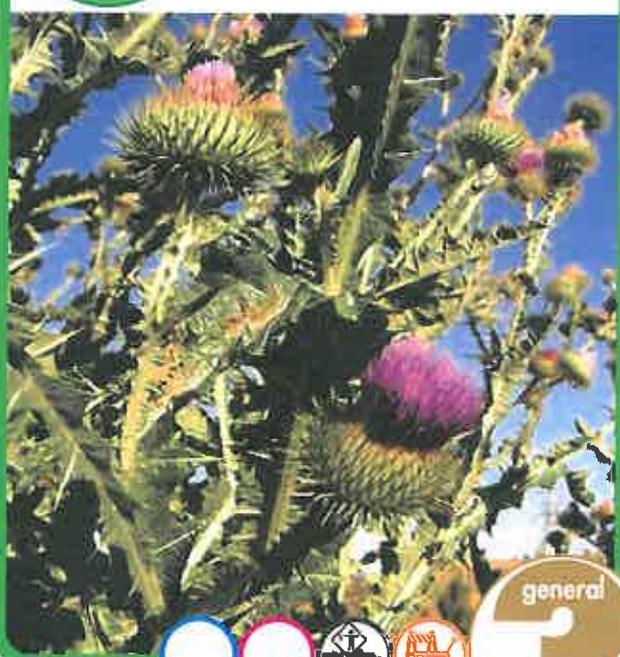
Scotch Thistle  
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05-0231-11



Scotch Thistle  
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05-0231-11

## Scotch Thistle

(Onopordum acanthium)

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.

There are two closely related species called Scotch thistle. Both are biennial forbs that can grow up to 12 feet tall. Stems are numerous, branched, and have broad, spiny wings. The leaves of the species acanthium are large, grayish-green, spiny, and covered with fine dense hair giving the leaf a woolly appearance. The leaves have a distinct mid-rib. There can be 70 to 100 violet to reddish flowers per plant.

Any mechanical or physical method that severs the root below the soil surface will kill Scotch thistle. Do not allow the plant to flower. More details about this species and controlling it are online at <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds>.

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