

Weed Alert! Canada thistle



www.cal-ipc.org

Canada thistle

(*Cirsium arvense*)

Mature Size Waist



Description

- Erect perennial plant 1-5 ft. tall
- Many purplish-lavender or white flower heads ½-1 in. across, almost without spines, atop a green pineapple-shaped bud
- Flowers mature into a cottony white tuft of seeds
- Leaves are very spiny, lobed and up to 8 in. long and 1 in. wide, becoming smaller on the upper part of the stem
- Smooth to slightly hairy stems
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively from rhizomes
- Spread by wind, waterways, hay
- Native to Europe and the Mediterranean region



Bloom Period Jun - Sep

Habitat Riparian, scrub, grassland, forest



2-Minute Removal Dig

Image credits: Front top: Dean Kelch ©2001 CDFG, Front bottom: Peggy Greb, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org, Back: Dean Kelch ©2001 CDFG; icons by Tim Hyland
These cards were adapted from a design by National Park Service.