

Weed Alert!
Woolly distaff thistle



Woolly distaff thistle

(*Carthamus lanatus*)

Mature Size Waist



Description

- Erect annual thistle to 3 ft. tall
- Yellow flower heads with faint red or black veins, surrounded by spiny leaves
- Leaves with deep lobes and spines on tips, and clasping stem leaves
- Stems are yellowish-white to pale green, and single on bottom half of the plant, but branched above
- Young plants form a low-growing cluster of leaves on the ground
- Reproduces by seed but may resprout when damaged
- Spread by waterways and hay
- Native to Europe and the Mediterranean region



Bloom Period May - Sep

Habitat Grassland



2-Minute Removal Dig

Image credits: Front top: © CDFA, Front bottom: CDFA, Back: © J.M. DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California; icons by Tim Hyland
These cards were adapted from a design by National Park Service.