**Purple starthistle**
*(Centaurea calcitrapa)*

**Mature Size**  Knee

**Description**
- 2-3 ft. plant with spiny purple-pink flowerheads
- Urn-shaped flower is ½-1 in. wide at the end of stems
- Base of flower is ringed with 1 in. long, rigid, straw-colored spines
- Grows as a low rosette of leaves in the first year
- Lower leaves deeply divided
- Highly branched green stems and leaves covered with fine hairs
- Seeds do not have a plume of bristles
- Stems are not winged
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively by resprouting from the crown when damaged
- Spread by wildlife, livestock, hay, forage, equipment
- Native to southern Europe

**Bloom Period**  Jul - Oct

**Habitat**  Chaparral, coastal prairie, grasslands

**2-Minute Removal**  Dig

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