

# Weed Alert

## Musk thistle



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(*Carduus nutans*)

**Mature Size** Waist



## Description

- Up to 6 ft. tall thistle with showy red to purple globe-shaped 1-3 in. wide flowerheads
- Mature flowers often droop on long stalks
- Tiny, thin straw-colored seeds have plume-like bristles
- Grows as a low rosette of leaves in the first year
- Dark green leaves are coarsely lobed with a smooth, waxy surface and sharp spines at tips
- Reproduces by seed and from buds that resprout when damaged
- Spread by wind, waterways, wildlife, waterfowl, livestock
- Native to Europe, Asia, and the Mediterranean region

**Bloom Period** Jun - Jul

**Habitat** Scrub, coastal prairie, grassland, forest, disturbed sites

**2-Minute Removal** Dig

