Weed Alert! Purple starthistle









Purple starthistle

(Centaurus 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

Image credits: Front and back: J.M. DiTomaso ©2007 The Regents of the University of California; icons by Tim Hyland These cards were adapted from a design by National Park Service.