

Weed Alert!

Artichoke thistle



Artichoke thistle

(*Cynara cardunculus*)

Mature Size Shoulder



Description

- Up to 8 ft. perennial plant with spiny leaves and large pink or purple flowerheads
- Single 1-6 in. wide flowers on the end of stems
- Flowerheads are surrounded by layers of spines, and produce seeds topped with feathery hairs, developing into a large cottony tuft
- Low-growing rosette of deeply divided grey-green leaves in the first year; leaves grow up to 4 ft. long and 15 in. wide
- Thick upright stems are branched at the top and covered in cottony down
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively from root fragments
- Spread by wind, roads, trails, equipment, livestock, hay, forage, horticulture
- Native to the Mediterranean region



Bloom Period Apr - Jul

Habitat Coastal scrub and prairie, chaparral, riparian areas, grasslands



2-Minute Removal Dig

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These cards were adapted from a design by National Park Service.