

Weed Alert! Yellow starthistle



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Yellow starthistle

(*Centaurea solstitialis*)

Mature Size Knee



Description

- 2-6 ft. annual with stiff wiry stems and spiny flowerheads that grow singly at stem tips
- Narrow yellow petals grow as a tuft above an oval, green, spine-covered bud
- Stiff spines up to 1 in. long
- A cottony white tuft remains above spines after flowers die
- Starts as a low cluster of leaves, like a dandelion rosette, but with white hairs
- Leaf bases extend down stems, giving them a winged appearance
- Leaves and stems gray to bluish green, covered with fine white cottony hairs
- Reproduces by seed
- Spread by recreation, roads, trails, wildlife, waterfowl, livestock, equipment, hay, forage
- Native to southern Europe



Bloom Period Apr - Sep

Habitat Chaparral, coastal prairie, grassland, riparian

