

Russian knapweed

Centaurea repens

Extremely persistent, perennial forb

Habitat

- Prefers open areas in semi-arid environments
- Roadsides
- Riverbanks, riparian forests and irrigation ditches
- Rangeland, pasture and disturbed grassland
- Clearcuts and wasteland
- Cropland

Flowers

- Solitary
- Urn-shaped
- .33 - .50" diameter

Seeds

- Up to 1200 per plant
- Germination temperature range: 68-86°
- Viability: 2-8 years (soil)
- Dispersal: passive (hay, feed, animal fur etc.)

Shoots

- Erect, thin and stiff
- Immature shoots covered with short gray hairs
- 100-300 shoots per 10 square feet

Roots

- Taproot
- Lateral growth: 6-8 feet per year
- Two years growth can cover 120-150 square feet

Growth and reproduction

- Reproduction primarily from rhizomes
- Shoots arise from adventitious buds along rhizomes
- Individual stands can survive and grow for 75 years or more

Management

- Prevention is most effective control
- Cutting, disking and mowing several times per year will deplete carbohydrate reserves and inhibit seed production
- Herbicides: clopyralid, clopyralid + 2,4-D, glyphosate, picloram
* Fall applied picloram is most effective

Threats

- Aggressively competes for light, nutrients and water
- Allelopathic
- Rapidly forms monocultures eliminating biodiversity of fauna and flora
- Causes "chewing" disease in horses

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