

NOT
WANTED:
Canada Thistle

Cirsium arvense



**INVASIVE
SPECIES**

Please call and report sightings:
1-877-INVASIV

Canada Thistle

Is a noxious weed in 35 states, including Alaska.

IDENTIFY

- Grows 1-4 feet tall
- Prickly, oblong leaves
- Purple-pink and white flowers
- Blooms June through August



Fig. 1: Canada thistle flowers can be purple-pink and white.

PROBLEM

- Displaces native vegetation through competition
- Decreases agricultural production
- Destroys yards, gardens, and parks
- Degrades natural habitats
- Produces 1,500 seeds per plant
- Roots spread up to 18 feet per year

In South Dakota, over 1.7 million acres are infested at a cost of \$47.8 million in lost agriculture.

Once established it is extremely difficult to remove and requires years of management and control.



Fig. 2: Canada thistle leaves are prickly and oblong.

MANAGING

CANADA THISTLE

EARLY IS KEY TO

PREVENTING NEW

INFESTATIONS

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If you would like more information on how to manage Canada thistle contact the UAF Cooperative Extension Service or Division of Agriculture.

UAF Cooperative Extension 1-877-520-5211
 Division of Agriculture 907-745-4469

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(468-2748)

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plants.alaska.gov/invasives/



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