

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **SPOTTED KNAPWEED**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*
Synonym; *Centaurea maculosa*

FAMILY: Asteracea

ORIGIN: Europe and west Asia

US INTRODUCTION: Early 1900's in contaminated crop seed

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Wind
- Contaminated hay, gravel and soil
- Mowing during seed set

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Biennial herb; first year plants form low-growing rosette of leaves (may remain in rosette stage for >1 year on extreme sites), second year plants form one to 20 hairy, tall stems. Blooms from early July to September, spreads by seed
- Flowers thistle-like, pink to purple, base surrounded by stiff, black-tipped bracts (gives flower "spotted" appearance)
- Seeds thistle-like
- Leaves alternate, dark green, as wide as long, rounded (young leaves may be longer than wide)
- Second year (or older) plant produces from one to 20 hairy, up to 1 meter high stems with flower buds and flowers
- Threatens savannas and prairies, especially on sandy or gravelly (dry) soils and often grows in disturbed sites, such as roadways, trails, old fields

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

None

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

USDA National Agricultural Library.
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/spotknapweed.shtml>

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/spotknapweed.html>

Plant Conservation Alliance Fact Sheet.
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/cest1.htm>



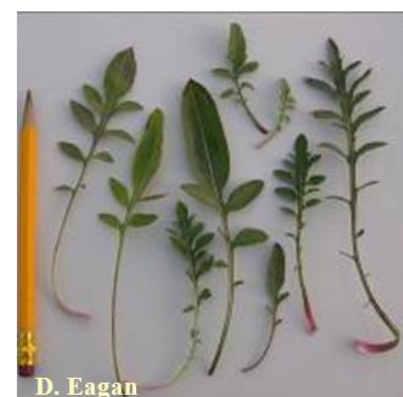
D. Maurer
2nd year flowering plant



D. Maurer
Flower and flower bud (close-up)



D. Eagan
1st year rosette



D. Eagan
Leaves



D. Maurer
Second year plant