



Diffuse Knapweed

Centurea diffusa



- Annual or short lived Perennial
- Grows 1-2 feet tall
- Blooms throughout summer, flowers are white or rose colored
- Knapweeds release chemical substances in the ground to inhibit growth of competing vegetation.

**Cache County Vegetation
Management Division
435-755-1562**

jake.forsgren@cachecounty.gov

Suggested Control Methods for Diffuse Knapweed

Mechanical & Cultural Methods

Hand-Pulling/Digging: Best for small patches in moist soil; remove the entire deep taproot (can be 2+ feet) to prevent regrowth, bagging flowering plants to stop seed spread.

Mowing: Reduces seed production if done repeatedly before flowering, but plants can re-flower below the mower blade; best used with other methods.

Prevention: Clean vehicles, equipment, and boots before moving to new areas; use weed-free seed/mulch; avoid creating disturbed soil.

Chemical Control (Herbicides)

Timing: Apply in spring (rosette to early budding) or fall (rosettes) when plants are actively growing.

Types: Selective broadleaf herbicides like triclopyr, 2,4-D, aminopyralid, or clopyralid.

Application: Spot-spray individuals or broadcast for dense areas; follow label directions precisely, avoiding wind/rain, and do not mow treated areas for a few weeks.

Biological Control

Agents: Seed head weevils (like *Larinus minutus*) and root weevils are highly effective, destroying seeds and weakening plants.

Release: Best in established colonies with suitable soil conditions; weevils can significantly reduce seed production.

Grazing

Effectiveness: Sheep, goats, and cattle can reduce seed production if grazed intensively during the bolting stage.