



Russian Knapweed

Centaurea repens



- Perennial
- Grows 2-3 feet tall
- Blooms early summer to late summer
- Grows in waste areas, pastures, fence lines, and right of ways
- Releases chemical substances in the soil that inhibit the growth of competing vegetation

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Suggested Control Methods for Russian Knapweed

Mechanical & Cultural Control

Mowing/Handpulling: Repeatedly mow or pull plants during the growing season (before flowering) to deplete root reserves and prevent seed set, but this alone isn't enough.

Tillage: Generally not recommended as it fragments roots and spreads the weed; however, deep, repeated tillage over years *might* work.

Reseeding: After chemical treatment, plant competitive perennial grasses to shade out knapweed.

Prevention: Use weed-free seeds and clean equipment to avoid introducing it.

Chemical Control

Timing is Key: Apply herbicides in the fall when plants are moving energy to the roots, or in spring/early summer at the bud/flowering stage.

Effective Products: Aminopyralid, Picloram, Clopyralid, Chlorsulfuron, or mixes like 2,4-D + Dicamba.

Follow Labels: Always read and follow product labels for proper rates and safety.

Biological Control

Agents: Approved agents include the Russian knapweed gall midge and gall wasp, which reduce plant biomass and seed production.

Integrated Approach (Most Effective)

Combine Methods: The best strategy combines repeated mowing/pulling to stress the plant, followed by a fall herbicide application to kill the roots, and then reseeding with desirable plants.