



Spotted Knapweed

Centaurea stoebe



- Perennial
- Grows 1-3 feet tall
- Blooms early 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

**Cache County Vegetation
Management Division**
435-752-1562
jake.forsgren@cache-county.gov

Suggested Control Methods for Spotted Knapweed

Mechanical & Manual Control

Hand-Pulling/Digging: Effective for small areas when soil is wet; remove the entire taproot to prevent regrowth.

Mowing: Suppresses growth but only if done consistently (monthly) from bud stage until frost; does not kill plants but reduces seed production.

Tilling/Plowing: Repeated cultivation can control it, but requires severing the deep taproot.

Chemical Control (Herbicides)

Timing: Apply to rosettes in fall or spring, or to bolting plants before flowers form.

Types: Glyphosate, clopyralid, aminopyralid, or mixtures with chlorsulfuron/aminocyclopyrachlor are common.

Selective Use: Use selective herbicides in grassy areas to avoid harming desirable grasses.

Biological Control (Biocontrol Agents)

Insects: Utilize root-mining weevils (like *Cyphocleonus achates*) and flower weevils (like *Larinus* species) to target different plant parts.

Cultural & Management Practices

Grazing: Managed grazing with sheep or goats can suppress knapweed over time.

Revegetation: Planting native grasses and desirable species helps outcompete the weed.

Integrated Approach (IPM): Combining methods (herbicides, biocontrol's, mechanical) is most effective for large infestations.