



# 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

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# 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.