



Squarrose Knapweed

Centaurea virgata



- Long-lived Perennial
- Grows 12 to 18 Inches tall
- Bloom occurs in early to mid-summer
- Knapweeds releases a chemical substance that reduces competing vegetation.

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Suggested Control Methods for Squarrose Knapweed

Mechanical & Cultural Control

Manual Removal: Dig up plants, ensuring you remove the entire taproot (at least 8 inches deep) to prevent re-sprouting; best for small infestations before seeding.

Mowing- Effective when done repeatedly from bud to early flower stage to reduce seed production, but not for mature, seeded plants.

Prevent Spread: Clean vehicles after driving through infested areas, and use weed-free materials.

Avoid Grazing: Do not graze infested areas after seed set, as it spreads seeds and promotes re-growth.

Revegetation: Establish desirable grasses and forbs after control to outcompete knapweed.

Chemical Control

Herbicides: Use selective broadleaf herbicides like 2,4-D, dicamba, aminopyralid, or picloram.

Timing: Apply in the rosette stage (late summer/fall) or pre-bud (spring/early summer) before flowering.

Application: Spot-spray or broadcast, adding a surfactant for better leaf adherence; follow all label directions.

Note: Annual treatments might be needed for several years to deplete the seed bank.

Biological Control

Insects: Gall-forming flies and root-boring weevils are available and can weaken plants, especially when used with other methods.

Integrated Management

Combine methods for best results (e.g., herbicide followed by reseeding).

Monitor and treat new infestations early to prevent large outbreaks.