



# 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.