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# Spotted Knapweed

*Centaurea stoebe* or *C. biebersteinii*



This branched, upright, scrawny plant has:

- Leaves in the 1<sup>st</sup> year form a low gray-green rosette on the ground. Then in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, leaves are less significant as they stagger along the main stem, growing smaller near the top.
  - Stems are green, branching on the upper half. Each branch has a small, egg-shaped flower bud at its tip, with black-tipped bracts.
  - Flowers are 1" pink/purple at the tips of their 8"-4' branches from June-November, initially blooming at the same time as purple clover.
  - Seeds follow the flowers, **up to 1,000 seeds per plant.**
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## HOW TO CONTROL:

- Hand-pull entire plant in a circle 5-6" from its base before seed-time. Cut 7" deep so root pieces will not sprout. Repeat. Sow seeds of a desirable plant to discourage recurrence of Knapweed.
- If herbicide treatment is necessary, and if beyond 25' from water, spray leaves on the ground before stems elongate: Apply Milestone at 7 oz/100 gal. when plants are actively growing, or cut off flower heads and bend stems into a dish of 20% glyphosate. Bag and dispose of all cut plant parts.
- Continue control efforts until seed bank is exhausted.

**NOTES:** Wear protection when handling Knapweed as plant chemicals are thought to be carcinogenic in large quantities.

*Centaurea stoebe* is **allelopathic**, meaning its roots chemically suppress germination of adjacent plants.

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## Sources

### Spotted Knapweed

[https://www.nps.gov/articles/spotted-knapweed-on-the-decline-in-big-hole-national-battlefield.htm?utm\\_source=article&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_campaign=experience\\_more&utm\\_content=small](https://www.nps.gov/articles/spotted-knapweed-on-the-decline-in-big-hole-national-battlefield.htm?utm_source=article&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=experience_more&utm_content=small);  
<https://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=50209>;  
[https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002\\_71240\\_73853-379476--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002_71240_73853-379476--,00.html)

### Controls

[https://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/weeds/spotted\\_knapweed\\_WI.pdf](https://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/weeds/spotted_knapweed_WI.pdf);  
[https://www.nps.gov/articles/spotted-knapweed-on-the-decline-in-big-hole-nationalbattlefield.htm?utm\\_source=article&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_campaign=experience\\_more&utm\\_content=small](https://www.nps.gov/articles/spotted-knapweed-on-the-decline-in-big-hole-nationalbattlefield.htm?utm_source=article&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=experience_more&utm_content=small)

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