

# PLUMELESS THISTLE

(*Carduus acanthoides*)



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## Distinguishing Features:

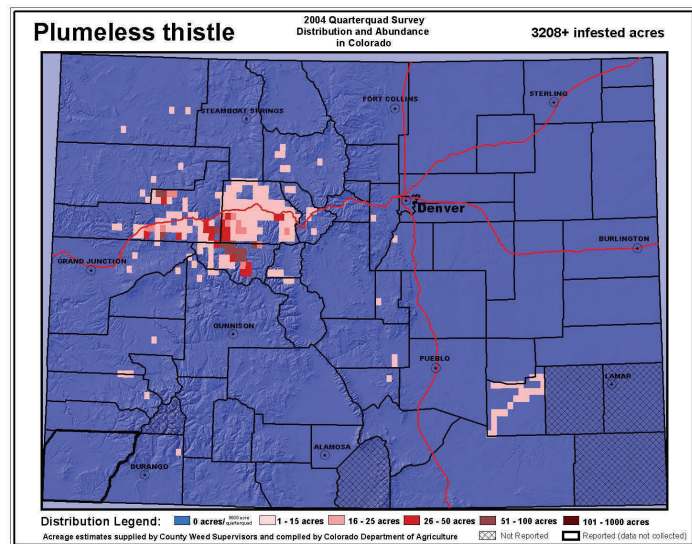
- Winter annual or biennial
- Stems are covered with leaf-like, winged spines that extend up to the flowering heads.
- Flower heads are alone at the end of branches in clusters of 2-5.
- Flowers are purple to dark red and are 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter.
- Leaves are alternate, stalk-less, hairy underneath and blend into the stem.
- Mature plants can grow taller than 5 feet and can produce upwards of 9,000 seeds.

## Typical Habitat:

- Includes pastures, fields, disturbed lands, logged-over areas, river valleys, along roadsides and in native grasslands.
- Native to Europe and Asia.



Report all sightings  
to your local  
weed manager  
immediately!



## Impacts:

- Plants invade fields and pastures and compete with native species and forage crops.
- Plumeless thistle is one of the most aggressive thistles, due to its high seed production.
- Limits recreational access to rivers and streams.

## Contact:

# PLUMELESS THISTLE CONTROL OPTIONS

## Chemical Control:

(listed by active ingredient, in order of efficacy)

- **Aminopyralid** (*Milestone* - general use)
  - ~ 5 fl oz product/acre
  - ~ Apply in spring to early summer rosette to bolting growth stages or in the fall
- **Clopyralid** (*Transline* - general use)
  - ~ 0.67 pint product/acre
  - ~ Apply when plants are in the rosette growth stage
- **Clopyralid + 2,4-D** (*Curtail* - general use)
  - ~ 2 quarts product/acre
  - ~ Apply when plants are in the rosette growth stage
- **Picloram** (*Tordon* - restricted use)
  - ~ 1-2 pints product/acre
  - ~ Apply when plants are in the rosette growth stage
- **2,4-D** (general use)
  - ~ 1 quart/acre
  - ~ Apply when plants are in the rosette growth stage

*The soil seed reserve of plumeless thistle is unknown. The site must be monitored for at least 10 years after the last flowering adult plants have been eliminated and treatments repeated when necessary.*

*\*Not all products listed are for use near homes. Be sure and read the label to determine if a listed product is appropriate for your site. The label is the law!*



## Mechanical Control:

- Handpull or dig taproot when soil is moist.
- Make certain to pull all the roots.
- Bag specimens carefully so as to not scatter seeds if flowering.



## There is no biocontrol available or approved for plumeless thistle!

Plumeless thistle is a State of Colorado List B Noxious Weed.  
Plumeless thistle is designated for eradication in most parts of the state.

Eradication requires intensive and persistent control efforts to effectively eliminate weed infestations and soil seed reserves.

Contact your local weed manager for more information.

A list of local weed managers can be found at:  
<http://www.ag.state.co.us/csd/weeds/mapping/countyprograms.html>

