

**Plant:** Canada thistle ( *Cirsium arvense*)

**Identification:** Canada thistle is one of the most common perennial weeds in Twin Falls County. Seedlings emerge as rosettes in early spring and fall, eventually bolting into flowering branched stems. Flowers usually start developing in June, and start blooming through July and August. Flowers can be pink, white, and purple. Canada thistle spreads by seed, and more often creeping horizontal root systems. Root systems can be as deep as 25 feet below surface. Seeds are surrounded in feathery bristles, and can travel in the wind up to 1,000 yards. It is found all along roadsides, fields, pastures, rangelands and yards.

**Defense:** Since Canada thistle is a perennial that mainly spreads through creeping roots, mechanical control is not the best option. Every time the root is chopped up or cut up from a disc, it produces new plants. Mowing when close to seed may help reduce seeds, but the plant will continue to grow and produce a new flower head. There are many chemicals that are very effective on Canada thistle such as aminopyralids (Milesone), dicamba (vanquish), and clopyralid (Transline). Chemicals like these will move through the plant and get into the root system for better control.

**Always read and understand the pesticide labels and restrictions on any pesticide you are using.  
The label is the law.**

