

Plant: Purple starthistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*)

Identification: Purple starthistle can act as an annual or perennial. It can grow to 3 feet tall from a stem that bolts in spring to early summer. It reproduces by seed that disperses a short distance from the parent plant. It is toxic to horses, causing chewing disease. It can be identified by hairy leaves that are 4-8 inches long, purple flower head, with spiny bracts below the flower head. The bracts are extremely sharp, and can be an inch long. Rosettes will have a singular head with bracts on it prior to bolting. There is only one known area in Twin Falls County to have this plant.

Defense: Mechanical control can be used in small infestations such as pulling this weed, but must be repeated multiple times a year. Chemical control can also be used with chemicals such as Perspective, Milestone, and Tordon 22k (Restricted Use). If you believe you have found this species, please contact us before treatment occurs.

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

PLEASE CONTACT THIS OFFICE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE FOUND THIS PLANT.

