

**Plant:** Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*)

**Identification:** Russian knapweed is a branched perennial with creeping roots that can grow up to 3 feet tall. Its roots move horizontally and vertically. Lower leaves are bluish-green and oblong up to 6 inches long, while upper stem leaves are narrow, lance shaped with fine hair. The flower heads on branch tips can be white, pink, or lavender blue. Bracts are short and pointing upward toward flower petals. This plant reproduces through seed and roots. Russian knapweed is common in cultivated fields, irrigation ditches, pastures, roadsides and other disturbed areas. It is also toxic to horses, and can cause chewing disease. Seeds are viable up to 9 years. Studies have shown this plant to place toxins in the ground so only it can grow there, eliminating competition.

**Defense:** Mechanical control is not advised since this plant grows off of creeping roots similar to Canada thistle. If you cut up or disc these plants under, each segment of the root you chopped up becomes more plants. There are biological control insects that are helping suppress the spread of Russian knapweed. Chemical control works well on this plant. Many chemicals such as Milestone, Escort XP, and Telar XP work well on this plant. Surfactants are recommended while spraying this plant because of the hairy leaves.

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

