

Plant: Squarrose knapweed (*Centaurea triumfetti*)

Identification: Squarrose knapweed is a perennial with a stout, long taproot, and stands 1 ½ - 3 feet tall with a woody base. Flower heads are pink to pale purple, and will appear more slender than other knapweed species. The bracts underneath the flower head are pale green to straw-colored, and the central spine of each bract usually curves backwards. Squarrose knapweed flowers June through August. The heads start to fall in the late summer and fall, but they can remain on the plant until the following spring. This plant can be found in grasslands, rangeland, and dry disturbed areas. Squarrose is especially adaptive to droughts and cold temperatures.

Defense: Mechanical control is limited with Squarrose. Hand pulling will result in breaking off the stout taproot and the plant will grow back. You can dig it up with a shovel, just be sure to get most of the root out of the ground. Squarrose is more difficult to control with chemical than the other knapweeds. Few herbicides are actually labeled for Squarrose knapweed. Milestone and Tordon 22k (A Restricted Use product) are among the most effective chemicals for this weed. **Contact our office if you believe you have found this species so we can put together a Management Plan and monitor the site, as it is on the eradication list and a High Priority noxious weed.**

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

