

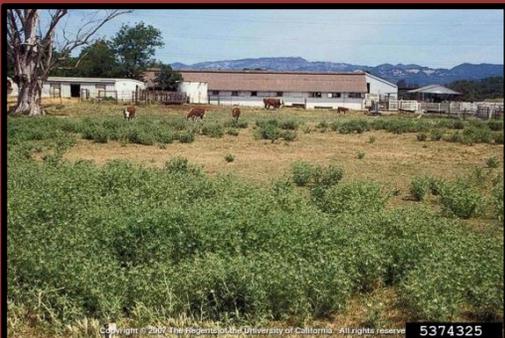
*Centaurea calcitrapa* L.

# Purple Starthistle

Other common names:  
Iberian knapweed

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: **EDRR**



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Annual to perennial; can grow 2-3 feet tall
- Rosettes have spines in the center
- Leaves deeply lobed becoming less so towards the apex and covered with fine hairs
- Flowers are purple to pink with spine-like bracts over 1 in. long
- Seeds do not have plumes (distinguishing factor between it and Iberian starthistle)

## Background

- Native to the Mediterranean and southern Europe; probably introduced as a seed contaminant
- Inhabits floodplains, dry forests, grasslands, and rangelands
- Reproduces by seed
- Displaces native vegetation, reduces hay values, and disrupts recreational activities
- Sharp spines deter grazing animals

Photo Credit:

UGA1357020 - Malcolm Storey, BioImages - Virtual Field-Guide, Bugwood.org

UGA1459649 - Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

UGA1354008 - Barry Rice, sarracenia.com, Bugwood.org

5374325 - Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis, Bugwood.org