

*Centaurea iberica*

# Iberian Starthistle

Other common names:  
Iberian knapweed

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: **EDRR**



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Annual or biennial depending on moisture conditions; grows 1-6 feet tall
- Rosettes have spines in the center
- Leaves are linear, divided, and narrow with fine hairs
- Flowers are purple with 1 inch long spine-like bracts
- Seeds are plumed and are the distinguishing factor between it and Purple starthistle

## Background

- Native to the Mediterranean, southern Europe, and northern Africa; 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:

Ross O'Connell, Regents of the University of California

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