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

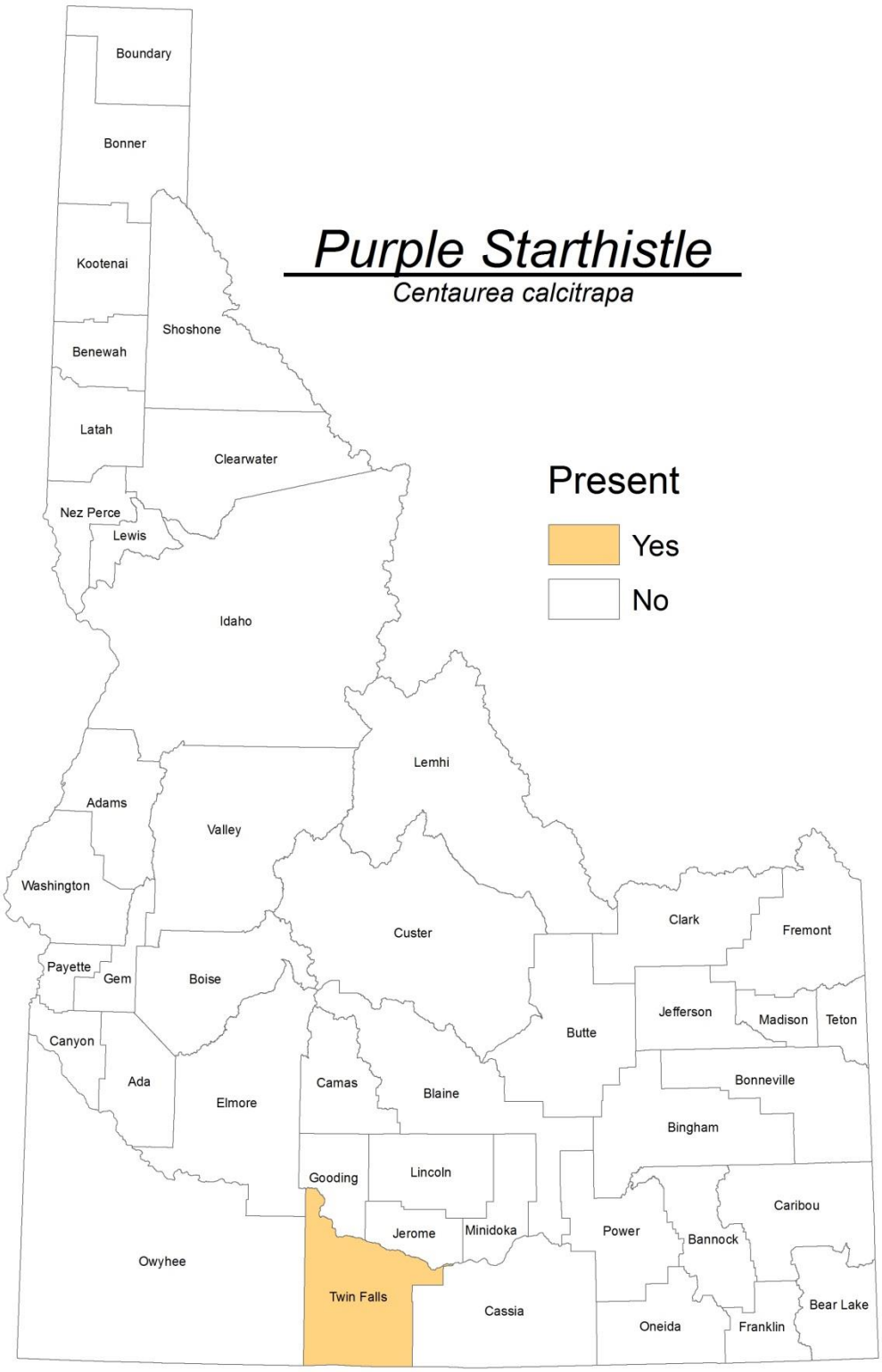
Photo Credit:

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


Purple Starthistle
Centaurea calcitrapa
Present
Yes
No
Boundary
Bonner
Kootenai
Shoshone
Benewah
Latah
Clearwater
Nez Perce
Lewis
Idaho
Lemhi
Adams
Valley
Washington
Custer
Clark
Fremont
Payette
Gem
Boise
Jefferson
Madison
Teton
Butte
Canyon
Ada
Elmore
Camas
Blaine
Bonneville
Bingham
Gooding
Lincoln
Caribou
Jerome
Minidoka
Power
Bannock
Owyhee
Twin Falls
Cassia
Oneida
Franklin
Bear Lake