

Centaurea pratensis

Synonym: *Centaurea debeauxii* ssp. *thuillieri*

Meadow Knapweed

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: CONTROL



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Perennial; grows from a woody crown up to 3½ feet tall and has upright stems that branch near the middle
- Basal leaves can be entire, lobed, or toothed; middle and upper leaves are linear
- Pink to purplish-red flowers borne at the ends of branches
- Flower heads are the shape of a globe
- Brown bracts with comb-like fringe that overlap adjacent bracts

Background

- Native to Europe
- Inhabits moist rights-of-way, sand/gravel bars, river banks, irrigated pastures, moist meadows, and forest openings
- Reproduces primarily by seed
- This plant is considered a hybrid between black (*C. nigra*) and brown knapweed (*C. jacea*)

Photo Credit:

J.M DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California

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Centaurea debeauxii

