**Centaurea pratensis**  
*Synonym: Centaurea debeauxii ssp. thuillieri*  
**Meadow Knapweed**

Asteraceae, the sunflower family  
Category: **CONTROL**

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**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

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**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)

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Photo Credit:  
J.M. DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California
Meadow Knapweed

Centaurea debeauxii

Present

- Yes
- No