

Acroptilon repens

Synonym: Centaurea repens

Russian Knapweed

Other common names:

Russian starthistle, Turkestan thistle

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: CONTROL



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Perennial; stems are considerably branched up to 3 feet tall
- Leaves are blue-green, toothed, and covered with fine hair
- Upper leaves are strap-like with entire margin
- Flower heads are cone-shaped with pink to violet flowers
- Bracts are rounded and tipped with a pointed, papery transparent edge

Background

- Native to Eurasia
- Inhabits pastures, cultivated fields, non-crop areas, and rights-of-way
- Reproduces by seed and creeping roots
- Plants produce a toxin in foliage and roots that inhibit the growth of desirable species
- **Toxic to horses; cause chewing disease**

Photo Credit:

UGA1459265 - Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

J.M. DiTomaso, The Regents of the University of California

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