

*Centaurea maculosa*  
*Synonym: Centaurea stoebe ssp.*  
*Micranthos*

# Spotted Knapweed

Asteraceae, the sunflower family  
Category: CONTAINMENT



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Biennial to short-lived perennial; has branched stems and grows up to 3 feet tall
- Rosette produced in the first year; leaves are deeply lobed
- Principal stem leaves are alternate and pinnately divided; not stalked
- Flowers are pink to purple
- Flower heads are solitary at the end of branches and urn-shaped; bracts under flowers have a comb-like fringe with a black triangular tip

## Background

- Native to Europe
- Inhabits pastures, open forests, meadows, and disturbed areas
- Reproduces by seed
- Plant produces toxins (allelopathic) that inhibits growth of nearby plants

Photo Credit:

J.M DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California

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*Centaurea stoebe*

