Centuraea solstitialis

Yellow Starthistle

Other common names:
St. Barnaby’s thistle, cotton-tip thistle

Asteraceae, the sunflower family
Category: CONTAINMENT

Diagnostic Characteristics

- Winter annual; grows 2-4 feet tall
- Rosette leaves are deeply lobed
- Foliage grayish to bluish-green and covered with fine white cotton-like hairs
- Lower stem leaves are sometimes pinnately lobed
- Stem leaves are alternate and mostly linear or narrowly oblong
- Leaf bases extend down stems and give the stems a winged appearance
- Flower heads are bright yellow and develop singly at the end of the branches
- Yellow spines up to ¾ inch long extend from the lower bracts

Background

- Native to the Mediterranean and Asia
- Inhabits rangelands, canyon grasslands, pastures, rights-of-way and disturbed areas
- Reproduces by seed
- Toxic to horses; causes chewing disease

Photo Credit:
Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org
Yellow Starthistle
*Centaurea solstitialis*

Present

- Yes
- No