

Pest Plant

plumeless thistle *Carduus acanthoides*

Family Asteraceae

Origin Europe, Asia

RPMS Status:

Surveillance - Whole Region

General description

Spiny perennial thistle <1.6m tall. Forms a rosette in first year & a ribbed branching stem in second year. Leaves are 5-7 lobed, with short spines on the tips. Small white, pink or purple flowers on end of stems.

Habitats

Pasture, roadsides, wasteland, lucerne crops, hill country, grasslands. Tolerates a wide range of climatic conditions.

Dispersal

Seeds dispersed by wind.

Impact on environment

Aggressive pasture species, forming thick stands that reduce carrying capacity of land & obstruct & injure stock.

Similar species

nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

Control

Site Management:

Matures later than nodding thistle, making the plant more difficult to control. Good pasture management including avoiding overgrazing will inhibit establishment.

Recommended approaches:

1. Biological agents give some control.
2. Grub out scattered plants removing at least 5cm of taproot.
3. Spot spray crowns of larger plants (100ml glyphosate/10L or 120ml Tordon Gold/10L or 25ml clopyralid/10L). Do not use clopyralid in home gardens. Gun spray large infestations (500ml Tordon Gold/100L).
4. Boom spray autumn to early winter for seedlings or small plants only (4L glyphosate/ha).

Caution: when using any herbicide or pesticide PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

