

**NOT**  
**WANTED:**  
**Canada Thistle**

*Cirsium arvense*



**INVASIVE  
SPECIES**

**Please call and report sightings:**  
**1-877-INVASIV**

# Canada Thistle

*Is a noxious weed in 35 states,  
including Alaska.*

## **IDENTIFY**

- Grows 1-4 feet tall
- Prickly, oblong leaves
- Purple-pink and white flowers
- Blooms June through August



Fig. 1: Canada thistle flowers can be purple-pink and white.

## **PROBLEM**

- Displaces native vegetation through competition
- Decreases agricultural production
- Destroys yards, gardens, and parks
- Degrades natural habitats
- Produces 1,500 seeds per plant
- Roots spread up to 18 feet per year

*In South Dakota, over 1.7 million acres are infested at a cost of \$47.8 million in lost agriculture.*

*Once established it is extremely difficult to remove and requires years of management and control.*



Fig. 2: Canada thistle leaves are prickly and oblong.

## **MANAGING** **CANADA THISTLE** **EARLY IS KEY TO** **PREVENTING NEW** **INFESTATIONS**

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*If you would like more information on how to manage Canada thistle contact the UAF Cooperative Extension Service or Division of Agriculture.*

UAF Cooperative Extension ..... 1-877-520-5211  
Division of Agriculture ..... 907-745-4469

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**1-877-INVASIV**  
**(468-2748)**



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**[plants.alaska.gov/invasives/](http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/)**



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