



TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

## Scotch Thistle

*Onopordum acanthium* L.



Scotch Thistle is a biennial that grows up to 12 feet tall. Stems have broad, spiny wings. Leaves are large, spiny and covered with fine dense hair, giving them a grayish appearance. Upper leaves are alternate, coarsely lobed; basal leaves may be up to 2 feet long and 1 foot wide. Flower heads are numerous, 1 to 2 inches in diameter, bracts spine-tipped. Flowers are violet to reddish. Fruits are about 3/16 inch long, tipped with slender bristles.



Scotch thistle is a native of Europe and eastern Asia and is now sparsely naturalized over much of the U.S. It is an aggressive plant and may form stands so dense that they are impenetrable to livestock. Scotch thistle is best controlled in the rosette stage.

**If you find this weed on your property or around Teton County, please report it immediately at 733-8419.**

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