



TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

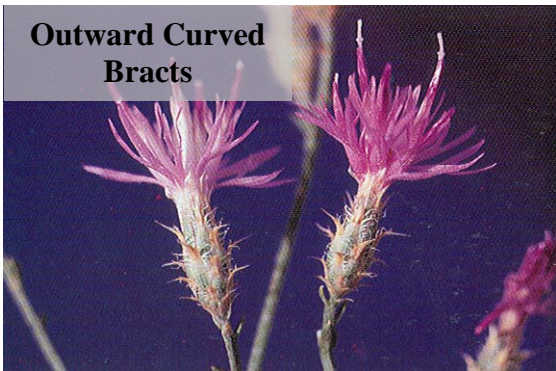
Squarrose Knapweed *Centaurea virgata* L.



Squarrose knapweed is a native to southeastern Asia and the Middle East. It is a relatively new invader to North America being first recorded in California around the 1950's. Squarrose knapweed is a long lived tap rooted perennial that usually grows to about 12 inches, but may reach 18 inches. Leaves are deeply lobed and like the stems are covered with very fine hairs. Flowers are small and pink with bracts that are recurved. The flowers differ from diffuse knapweed in that the bracts are curved outward and spotted

knapweed bracts resemble dark spots. This plant is highly invasive, particularly in native bunch grass and prairie communities.

Outward Curved Bracts



Squarrose knapweed reproduces mainly by seed dispersal. Because the plant is a perennial and will regrow from root reserve for more than 2 years, one plant can produce many seeds over a lifetime. The morphology of the seeds makes them particularly easy for animal and wind dispersed and they remain viable for many years.



Currently, there has been no infestation found in Teton County. However, we do know that this weed species has been found in Wyoming and neighboring states. This invader could be very damaging to Teton County if ever introduced. Due to the threat that squarrose knapweed poses to our wildlife habitats, we are asking the public to please be on the look out for this weed species.

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

Photos © Weeds of the West, unless otherwise noted.

