



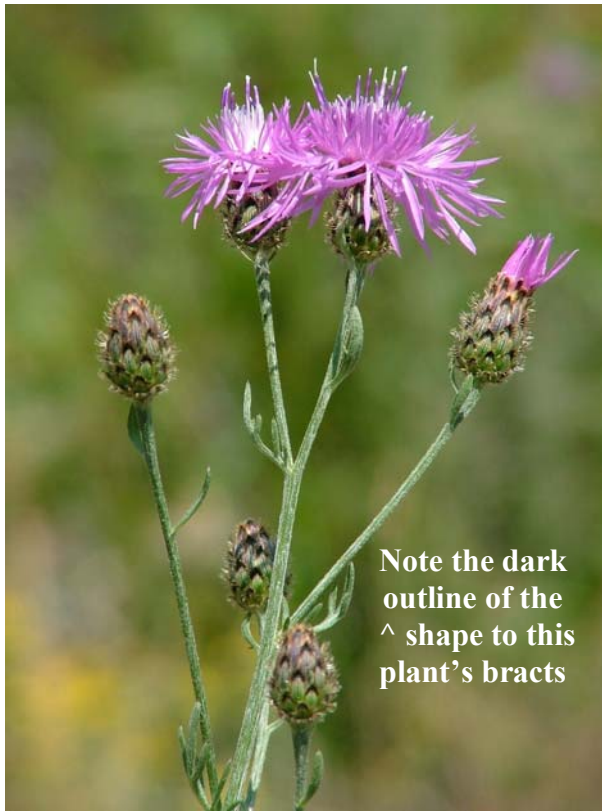
TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

Spotted knapweed *Centaurea maculosa*

Spotted knapweed is a biennial or short lived perennial that develops a large tap root and spreads primarily by seeds. The flower of this plant can be pink, purple, or occasionally white with surrounding bracts that are black fringed. Depending on the plants health and location it can have up to 50+ flowers per adult plant. The leaves are very narrow and finely divided, they have a thin layer of matted gray hair giving the plant a bluish green appearance. Spotted knapweed plants produce around 1,000 seeds per plant. This weed is known to be allelopathic meaning when introduced to an area it releases its own chemicals. This can reduce the ability of native plants to compete with it or in some situations kill desirable vegetation.

Spotted knapweed has shown itself to be a highly invasive weed, an excellent story illustrating this occurs in the article; “Spotted Knapweed” by Roger L. Sheley, James S. Jacobs, and Michael L. Carpinelli. This article describes how spotted knapweed was isolated to just one island chain in Washington up to 1920. In 1997 it could be found in 14 western states, 326 different counties, and every county in Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

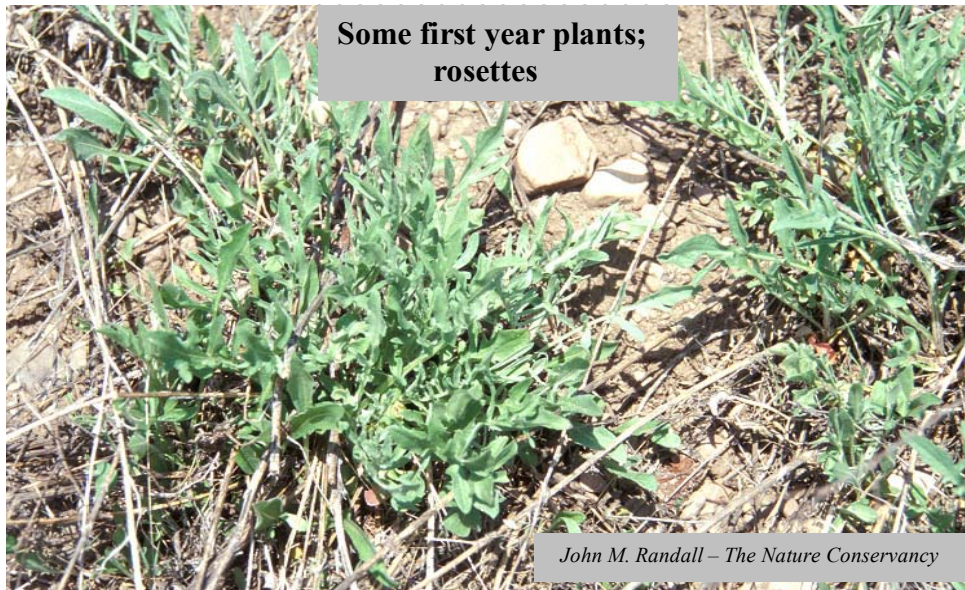
Spotted knapweed has invaded several thousands of acres in Teton County and often prefers dry gravelly sites. **For help controlling this plant, please contact Teton County Weed & Pest District 733-8419.**



Note the dark outline of the ^ shape to this plant's bracts



A near monoculture of



Some first year plants;
rosettes

John M. Randall – The Nature Conservancy