



TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

Canada thistle *Cirsium arvense*



Canada thistle is a complex root spreading perennial that reproduces primarily by rhizomes and to a lesser extent by seeds. The flowers are usually purple or light pink but, can be white. Each plant is either male or female and requires pollination of the female flowers to produce viable seed, due to the extensive root system of this plant large patches are often male or female and seldom both. Leaves are usually lance-shaped, irregular, and divided into spiny tipped lobes.

Canada thistle is one of the most invasive species ever introduced. It was one of the first plants to have noxious weed laws requiring its control, in 1795 in Vermont, followed by New York in 1831.



In Teton County, it has invaded fields, rangelands, turf, roadsides, riparian areas, and many other places with a vast variety of environmental conditions. **Control of this weed is difficult and for help managing an infestation, please contact Teton County Weed & Pest 733-8419.**

