



TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

Musk thistle *Carduus nutans*



An infestation invading a native bunchgrass hill side

Musk thistle is a tap rooted biennial that reproduces by wind dispersed seeds. The flower is generally 1 ½ to 3 inches in diameter and bright pink in color. It has the ability to produce over 100 flowers on robust plants, which can produce up to 20,000 seeds per plant. The leaves are dark green with a light colored outline that sometimes is described as a ‘holy-like’ appearance, deeply lobed, and have a spiny margin. This plant often grows from 3-6 feet in our area.

In Teton County, Musk thistle is a very successful invader, and can be found in a variety of habitats. It often prefers disturbed soils and irrigated pastures. **If you need help controlling this weed please contact Teton County Weed & Pest District 733-8419.**



Note the leaf margins or outer edge



Up close: a large terminal flower