

Invasive Species Factsheet-Spotted Knapweed

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Species Common Name: Spotted Knapweed

Species Scientific Name: *Centaurea maculosa*

Native Range and Introduction: This species is native to Europe and was accidentally introduced into the United States in the late 1800's in alfalfa or clover seed. Its primary vector for spread now are contaminated alfalfa hay, animals, and other human activities.

Description: This species can grow as a biennial, but usually grows as a perennial, reaching heights around three feet. This species can reproduce from either seeds or rhizomes. Basal leaves are long with deeply lobbed margins, while upper leaves are short with entire margins. The stems and leaves are covered by fine hairs. Flowers appear on branch tips and are usually pink to purple. The bracts on the underside of the flowering head, are black tipped making it look spotted. Prolific seed producers with up to 25,000 seeds per plant produced that are viable for up to eight years. It is allelopathic, which means it releases toxins into the soil to prevent any other species from germinating and/or growing.

Regulated Status in Wyoming: Spotted Knapweed is on the State Designated Noxious Species List and is also on the North American Invasive Species Management Association Weed Free Forage Noxious Species List that Wyoming uses for weed free forage standards.

Distribution in Wyoming: This species is found in every county in Wyoming.

Control Options:

Mechanical: As a perennial species, mechanical techniques (pulling, hoeing, or chopping) could help reduce seed production, but will not likely lead to overall control of the current infestation.

Chemical: Depending on your situation there are a few herbicides that work well on this species, Milestone (Aminopyralid) and Tordon 22K (Picloram) in range or Perspective (Aminocyclopyrachlor+ Chlorsulfuron) would be a good idea for ROW or industrial sites.

Biological: Two options here: Goats could be grazed, which should reduce seed production and plant vigor. Also, two species of insect, Blunt Knapweed Flower Weevil and Lesser Flowerhead Weevil, are available for release on this species.

Integrated Weed Management: This could be an early season grazing treatment with goats followed by a late summer/early fall treatment with a herbicide, a combination like this would likely lead to the best control results.

Online Resources:

URL: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=3013>

URL: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/12040>

URL: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/spotknapweed.shtml>

Image 1 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5374338>

Image 2 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5422905>



Image 1-Rosette



Image 2-Flowering head

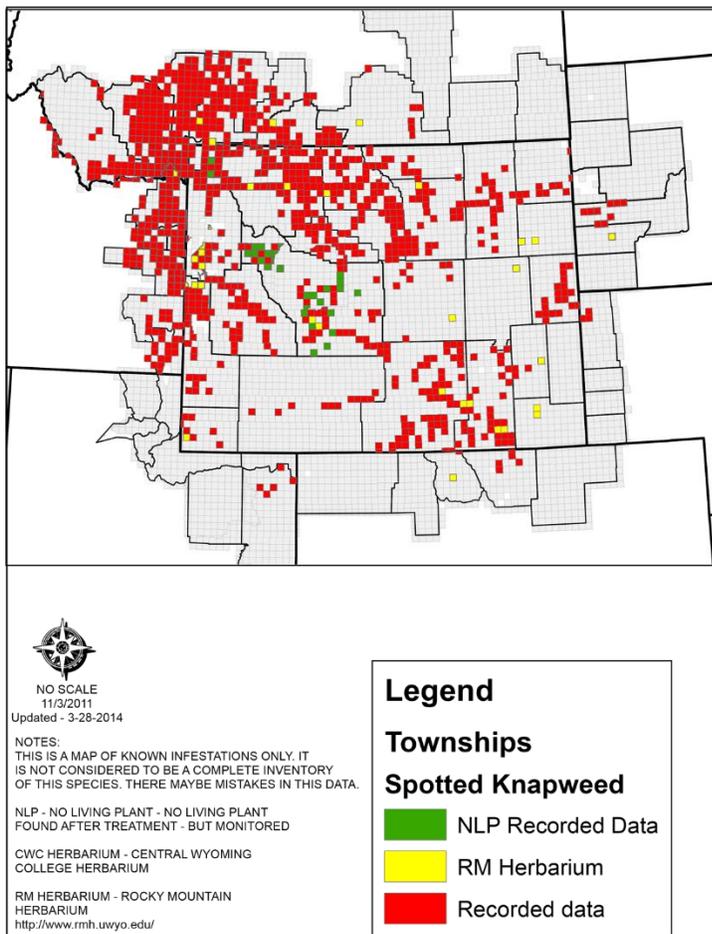


Figure 1-Spotted Knapweed distribution in Wyoming and Surrounding States
URL: http://wyoweed.org/images/Weed_Maps/Spotted_knapweed.pdf