

## Six interesting facts about the Meadow Knapweed

1. There are at least 78 other varieties of Knapweed
2. They are from the same species of Herbaceous Thistles.
3. They produce nectar and are major honey plants for beekeepers.
4. Knapweed, in general, covers 18% more land every year.
5. Meadow Knapweed invades moist sights.
6. Some people actually use Meadow Knapweed as a decorative plant.

## Sources

- <http://www.oneplan.org/Crop/noxWeeds/nxWeed15.shtml>
- [http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile\\_meadowknapweed.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_meadowknapweed.shtml)
- <http://www.weedmapper.org/cede5.html>
- [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed\\_info/Written\\_findings/Centaurea\\_pratensis.html](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_info/Written_findings/Centaurea_pratensis.html)
- <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/LANDS/Weeds/pdf/Meadow-Knapweed.pdf>
- <http://www.invasive.org/weeds/knapweed/chapter1.html>

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## Meadow Knapweed

*Centaurea Pratensis*



## Characteristics

- The Meadow Knapweed can grow up to 3 1/2 feet tall.
- The leaves near it's base are slender. They can be up to four inches long and can be entire\*, toothed, or lobed\*.
- The flowers can be anywhere from pink to reddish-purple. The brackets are up to 1/4 inch wide.
- Seeds are brown or grey in color and have



**Entire**– not toothed; **Lobed**–a cut into the edge of a leaf.

An invasive species is a non-native organism. The problem with invasive species is the fact that since they have no natural predators, they break the natural food-chain.

## Where is the Meadow Knapweed found in Oregon?

The Meadow Knapweed Is found in Josephine, Coos, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Benton, Polk, Marion, Clackamas, Washington, Hood River and Multnomah County.



## How it impacts humans

Meadow Knapweed has a habit of disrupting pasture lands, industrial plants, and logging locations. This causes productivity to decrease and loss of funds.

## How the Meadow Knapweed spreads

The Meadow Knapweed has two ways for reproducing. One way is by seed. The other way is by crown. Reproduction by crown is when the roots of a plant are cut, then planted and able to produce more offspring.



## Recourses to prevent the spread of invasive species

- Siuslaw Watershed Council  
Phone: 541-268-3044  
Fax: 541-268-3045
- Local Soil and Water Conservation District  
Phone: 541-997-1272 (Florence)  
Phone: 541-684-0998 (Eugene)
- 1-866-468-2337 (1-866-invader)
- On-Line source from OPB video  
[www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org](http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org)

## Where is the Meadow Knapweed in the food web?

The Meadow Knapweed, as an invasive species, can cause a lot of chaos in the food web. For example The plant competes with native grasses and other flowers.

Since it is an invasive species, it doesn't have any natural predators which means that deer isn't going to think to eat it. When the deer's food supply is dying out because of the Knapweed, so does the deer population. Here comes the wolf looking for dinner and realizes the deer population isn't high enough to support his pack, so slowly they also die off .

The cycle soon fails to support the food web until one day a curious deer decides to take a bite of **(continued on next page)**

the strange flower. Up goes the deer population and as a result, the wolf population increases as well.

## How to stop the spread of the Meadow Knapweed

Isolated small areas of the weed can be controlled simply by digging out the plant by the roots. Tilling and cultivation bury seeds deeper than one and a half inches, this is a very effective



tool and controlling the spread of these nuisances. When using chemicals to prevent the spread, only use those legal and appropriate for the area, and follow the directions carefully.

