

Have you seen this invasive plant?

Purple starthistle is an annual or perennial that grows to 3 feet tall and invades grasslands and disturbed habitats.

Learn more at www.nwcb.wa.gov



Tom Forney, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Basal leaves form a rosette with a cluster of spines at its center. They are deeply lobed and divided. Upper stem leaves are alternate, narrow and undivided.



Barry Rice, saraceniac.com, Bugwood.org



Narrow flowerheads are light to dark purple. Large spiny bracts point outward at the base.



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Plants can be multi-stemmed and appear bushy. Young plants are covered with cobwebby hairs and often become hairless with age.

Why is purple starthistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*) a noxious weed?

- Like other invasive knapweeds, purple starthistle can rapidly form extensive infestations that are difficult to control.
- It is unpalatable to livestock and wildlife and outcompetes desirable forage species.

Where do you find purple starthistle?

- Commonly found in grasslands, purple starthistle can also grow in fields, roadsides, disturbed areas and overgrazed rangelands.

What can you do?

- Learn to correctly identify this Class A noxious weed.
- Please note that eradication of purple starthistle is required in Washington to prevent it from gaining a foothold. Small infestations can be hand pulled but be careful of the spiny bracts on the plant.
- Report any sightings to your county noxious weed control board or to noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov.

