

Spotted knapweed

Centaurea stoebe L. ssp. *micranthos*

(Gugler) Hayek

Life cycle

Biennial or short-lived perennial.

Leaves

First-year leaves originate from a basal rosette, followed by a flowering stem in the second year. Basal leaves are deeply and irregularly lobed on long stalks; stem leaves

are alternate and finely dissected. Leaves are grayish green and roughly hairy.



Spotted knapweed upper leaf.

Stems

Erect, wiry stems elongate during the second year, up to 6 feet tall with multiple branching. Stems are roughly hairy and often green to purple-striped.

Flowers and fruit

Terminal and axillary heads consist of purple to pink disk flowers above encircled by distinctly black-tipped bracts below. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, olive-green to brown fruit with a bristly pappus that can attach to animals for transport.

Reproduction

Seeds.

Spotted knapweed *continued*



Spotted knapweed rosette.



Spotted knapweed stem.



Spotted knapweed flower head.

Asteraceae (Aster family)