

## Russian Knapweed *Centaurea repens* L.

### Identification:

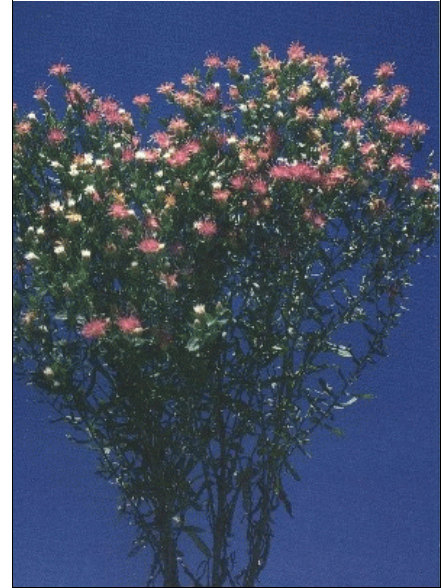
This perennial plant can grow up to 3 feet tall, erect, often in dense patches of upright single stems from widely spreading black roots which may go 8' deep or more. Plants start as grey-green rosettes, and become more evergreen as they bolt upward. Widely spaced plants may branch out from the base and appear "bushy". Flowering occurs from June to September, with lavender-blue to pink thistle-like blossoms.

### Potential Damage:

Crowds out native and forage plants. Colonies of this plant eliminate all other plants from an area. Reduces feed for livestock and wildlife, increases runoff and degradation of streams for fisheries.

### Control and Prevention:

Take care not to drive or walk through infested areas. Stop and inspect vehicle between patrol units. MARK SITE on map and provide to Refuge Operations Specialist upon return from field. Fortunately, the spread of this plant is not extremely fast. However, control is difficult due to the fact that the plant can spread from both seeds and root shoots. Restoration plans should be made for areas where control is conducted. Russian knapweed is a Class B noxious weed in Washington state and landowners/managers are legally required to prevent the spread of this plant.



### Current Status on the Hanford Reach National Monument:

Populations of Russian Knapweed on the ALE are near Rattlesnake springs and Benson Ranch, these populations are being treated annually. Other locations of Russian Knapweed are on Wahluke near Ringold, and on Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge on flat areas near the River. Mapping these populations will be a first priority, followed by preparation of restoration plans prior to treatment. Treatments will take place, only when they can be followed up with a restoration effort. Mechanical treatments, such as mowing, can be used to limit seed production of mature plants, and to prevent spread. **Please be aware and look for this plant everywhere.**