

MISIN Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

Tyrol knapweed

Centaurea nigrescens

Description

Habit

Perennial, growing from 19 inches to 5 feet tall. Stems are upright, branched and covered in hairs. Typically flowers from summer to fall.

Leaves

Basal leaves are oblanceolate to elliptic. Upper leaves are lanceolate and progressively decrease in size up the stem. Hairless or lightly hairy on the undersides; deeply lobed to irregularly cut. Terminal love is larger than others.

Stems

Upright, branched and erect. Can reach a height of 19 inches to 5 feet.

Flowers

Lavender to purple in color and occur singularly at the ends of branches. Bract (long fringes beneath the flowerhead) tips are dark brown,



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long and slender. Bract tips have a somewhat triangular fringe.

Fruits and Seeds

Seeds are tan in color with fine hairs. Plants produce on average a few thousand seeds per plant.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in open grasslands, prairies, open forests, orchards, cultivated fields, field edges, and travel corridors.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively by root fragments.

Similar

Other species of knapweed (Centaurea).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pull plants, removing the entire tap root. Mow or cut plants before flowering to prevent seed-set. Herbicide treatments are most effective when combines with other control techniques. 3% solution of triclopyr herbicide mixed with water can be applied to leaves in early spring or fall. Gall flies (Urophora affinis and Urophora quadrifasciata) are used to feed on developing seed heads.

Credits

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