

## Meadow knapweed

### *Centaurea xmoncktonii*

#### Description

Fertile hybrid between black and brown knapweeds.

#### Habit

Biennial; deep-rooted perennial; growing each year from a woody root crown.

#### Leaves

Basal leaves are up to 6 in (15.2 cm) long, tapering at both ends and having the broadest part above the middle of the leaf, stem leaves are lance-shaped, shallowly-lobed, and stalkless.

#### Stems

Few to several stems with many branches; mature plants reach 3.5 ft (1.04 m) tall.

#### Flowers

Rose-purple in color, although white flowers occasionally occur; heads are solitary at the ends of the upper branches, broadly oval and almost globe-shaped, 0.5 in (1.3 cm) long with a fringed





margin.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Seeds are pale tan in color, plumeless, 1/8 in (2 cm) long.

### **Habitat**

Native to Europe. Grows well in moist soils and found in disturbed sites, roadsides, fields, open grassland, pastures, and forest edge at low- to mid-elevations.

### **Reproduction**

By seed.

### **Similar**

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), which can be easily distinguished by its leaf shape and color. Spotted knapweed leaves are grey-green and more deeply lobed.

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling; effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides.

### **Credits**

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