

## Russian thistle

### *Salsola kali*

#### Description

Introduced to North America in contaminated flax seed.

#### Habit

Bushy, dense annuals that reach a height of 31-152 cm. high.

#### Leaves

Alternate, 1.3-6.4 cm. long, thread-like, cylindrical or awl-shaped with pointed tips.

#### Stems

Branched, rigid, often reddish with age but green when young.

#### Flowers

Solitary, small and greenish to white in color and lack petals. Papery spine-tipped bracts are present at the base of each flower.





### **Fruits and Seeds**

Small, winged, 3-9 mm. seed.

### **Habitat**

Native to Eurasia. Found in roadsides, ditches, abandoned fields, overgrazed ranges, and pastures.

### **Reproduction**

By seed. Capable of producing up to 1 million seeds per plant.

### **Similar**

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pull or uproot young plants or hoe just below ground level before seed set. Mowing is not recommended but repeat mowing may provide some control. Resistance to trazine herbicides have been observed.

### **Credits**

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