

*Carduus acanthoides*

# Plumeless Thistle

Other common names: bristly thistle, giant thistle

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: CONTROL



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Winter annual to biennial; grows 3-5 feet tall
- Rosette has wavy leaves with yellow spines along the leaf margin
- Stem leaves alternate
- Stems strongly winged, spiny, non-hairy to light woolly,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide, and extend up to the flower heads
- Spherical purple flower heads (solitary or clustered) are 1 inch wide (smaller than musk thistle)
- Bracts on flower head are thin spines

## Background

- Native to Eurasia
- Inhabits pastures, fields, non-crop areas, rights-of-way, and disturbed sites
- Reproduces by seed
- Can hybridize with musk thistle

Photo Credit:

J.M DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California

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