

# Meadow knapweed

*Centaurea jacea x nigra*

Sunflower Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flowers are pink to purplish-red with light to dark brown fringed bracts that can give a golden sheen appearance to infestations
- ❑ Flower heads are larger than either spotted or diffuse knapweed
- ❑ Grows up to 3 ½' tall with many branches
- ❑ Leaves may be entire, coarsely lobed, or toothed but not divided as in diffuse or spotted knapweed

## Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant spreading by seeds
- A fertile hybrid between brown and black knapweed
- It is a native of Europe
- This plant is found throughout the Pacific northwest; denser populations in western WA but some sites known in Pend Oreille County
- It invades fields and pastures as well as roadsides, open forests, and moist areas

## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

*Biological* - *Larinus minutus* is effective and widespread in our county

*Cultural* - Plant competitive cover crop

*Mechanical* - Does not tolerate tillage but may need to be done more than once; grazing or mowing not effective unless it is done continuously, small areas can be pulled or dug

*Chemical* - There are many products on the market listed for control of knapweeds such as; 2,4-D, dicamba, glyphosate: refer to the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations

*Where found* – At this time we are not aware of any infestations in Stevens County



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