

# WEED ALERT

## Canada Thistle, Invasive Pasture Pest



Canada Thistle is a common invasive weed in cultivated fields and pastures. It is a perennial that spreads by seed and by creeping horizontal roots.

Canada Thistle grows best on moist, open, disturbed areas. It can be found on roadsides, ditches, meadows, pastures and logged areas.



This 3' to 5' tall weed has pink to purple bristly flowers that are 1/2 inch long and wide. It has irregularly lobed leaves with spikes on the ends. Leaves are glossy on the top and wooly on the bottom. Seeds have tufts of tan hair at the tip and are spread by the wind.

Roots grow horizontally and can spread up to 20 feet. New shoots will grow from the roots and those cut in cultivation develop into new plants.

Control by hand pulling early in season or by tilling every 3 weeks during the entire growing season.

Herbicides recommended by the OSU Extension Master Gardeners can also be used. Grazing will not work for control as animals avoid eating this weed.

Scan here for control info



For more information check out:  
[www.columbiagorgecwma.org](http://www.columbiagorgecwma.org)

