

## Thistle Fact Sheet

by Wendy Mussoline

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**Toxicity:** None

**Description:** Stems covered with soft hairs and winged with spiny leaf bases



### Different Species in Florida

Blessed thistle

(*Cnicus benedictus*)

Scotch thistle

(*Onopordum acanthium*)

Bull thistle

(*Cirsium vulgare*)

Horrid thistle

(*Cirsium horridulum*)

Swamp thistle

(*Cirsium muticum*)

Virginia thistle

(*Cirsium virginianum*)

Tall thistle

(*Cirsium altissimum*)

Nuttall's thistle

(*Cirsium nuttallii*)

Le Conte's thistle

(*Cirsium lecontei*)

### Growth Stages:

Rosette – a taproot with a cluster of leaves above the ground surface (November to January)

Bolting – an elongated stalk extends from the rosette (February to July)

Flowering - the plant flowers, produces seed, then dies (April to August)

### Mechanical Control:

Remove prior to seed production – either by hand in rosette stage from below ground surface or mow after rosettes have bolted but before flowers have formed.

### Chemical Control:

2,4-D (2 qt/A), Weedmaster (2 pt/A), Remedy Ultra (2 pt/A), PastureGard HL (1.5 pt/A), and GrazonNext HL (1 pt/A)

### Reference:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/AG/AG25300.pdf>

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