

Meadow Knapweed (*Centaurea x moncktonii*)

[*C. jacea* × *C. nigra*]

Description

Meadow knapweed is a deep-rooted perennial, growing each year from a woody root crown. Mature plants reach 1 m tall. Basal leaves are up to 15 cm long, tapering at both ends and having the broadest part above the middle of the leaf. Stem leaves are lance shaped, shallowly-lobed and stalkless. There are usually few to several stems with many branches. Flowers are generally rose-purple in color, although white flowers occasionally occur. The heads are solitary at the ends of the upper branches. They are broadly oval and almost globe-shaped, 1.3 cm long. The bracts of meadow knapweed are light to dark brown, with a fringed margin. Meadow knapweed is a fertile hybrid between black and brown knapweeds.

Key Identifiers

- ✓ Plant will share traits from both Brown and Black Knapweeds
- ✓ Fringes on bracts as long or longer than the width of the bract, not rigid; Fringe on bract tan to brown
- ✓ Meadow knapweed prefers moister and cooler conditions than the other knapweeds

Location in Canada

BC, Nfld and Labr., NS, Ontario and Quebec all report the presence of Meadow Knapweed. Alberta has no reported locations.

Resources

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/cepublications/pnw0432/pnw0432.pdf>

Similar species

(*Centaurea* spp.) Other knapweeds are going to be similar to meadow knapweed. The key feature for differentiating all knapweeds from one another is to compare the unique bracts. The link under “Resources” is an excellent resource to walk you through identifying knapweeds.

May be mistaken for a thistle at a passing glance but upon inspection, all parts of meadow knapweed lack spines.

