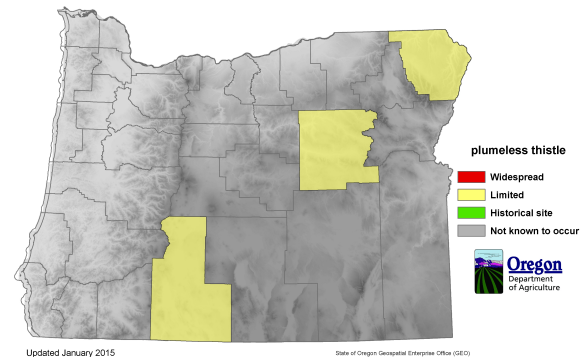


Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Plumeless thistle
Carduus acanthoides

Other common names: spiny plumeless thistle, welted thistle

USDA symbol: CAAC
ODA rating: A and T



Introduction: Plumeless thistle went undetected in Oregon for years due to its similarity to musk thistle. It is an aggressive invader of range and pastureland throughout the west.

Distribution in Oregon: Plumeless thistle occurs in Wallowa, Grant, and Klamath Counties. Each site is being intensively treated and monitored.

Description: Plumeless thistle can grow either as a winter annual or a biennial. One to four foot tall stems are covered with spiny wings for their whole length. It is similar in appearance to musk thistle but with smaller flowers and the winged stems. Rosette leaves are 4 to 8 inches long, stem leaves are alternate and blend into the stem. Flower heads in clusters of 2 to 5 and usually purple but can be yellow or white. Flowering season lasts May through July.

Impacts: Each plant generates thousands of seeds. New infestations rapidly increase in size and density, limiting grazing and livestock access, forage production and can diminish recreational activities for campers and boaters. Plumeless thistle invades pastures, valleys, fields, roadsides and open native habitats.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. This weed is being targeted for eradication or containment. There are two approved biocontrol agents for use in other states: a seed head weevil and a root crown weevil.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-986-4621
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Dan Sharratt, ODA
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