WISCONSIN WILDCARDS

ALIEN INVADERS

SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Centaurea maculosa (syn. C. biebersteinii)

BASIC ID

This biennial or short-lived perennial's flowering stems range from 2' to 4' in height. Small thistle-like, pinkish-purple flower heads occur at the tip of each stem.

IMPACTS

Native to Eurasia, it was introduced accidentally through seed stock. It invades roadsides and fields and can be very invasive in dry prairies, barrens, and dunes. It produces a chemical that kills neighboring plants.

MANAGEMENT

- WEAR LEATHER GLOVES—Pulling with bare hands is believed to cause illness!
- Dig or pull entire root system
- Treat with hot prescribed burns
- Apply herbicide specific to broadleaf or composite plants

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive

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