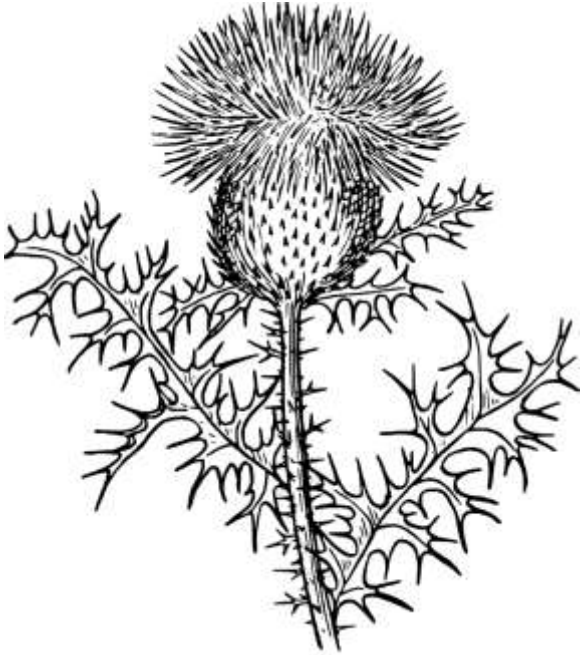


Apple Valley Noxious Weed Alert

SCOTCH THISTLE



Thistle is a serious weed, subject to control under the Utah Noxious Weed Act. Property owners and managers have a **LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY** to control this noxious weed. Failure to control it may result in the Town declaring the property a nuisance.

Please take immediate action to prevent the spread of this weed. Additional information is below. For assistance dealing with large areas, contact the Washington County Noxious Weed Department, who charges \$40/hour for weed control:

Brad Winder (Supervisor)
435-634-5702

Below is additional information on identification and removal:

Growth Habit: Biennial, sometimes annual, erect up 8 feet tall. Rosette formed first year; flowering stem elongates second year.

Leaves: Large, coarsely lobed, hairy on both sides, velvety gray appearance. Margins lined with sharp conspicuous spines. Basal leaves up to 2 feet long and 1 foot wide.

Flowers: Solitary, terminal, 1 to 2 inches in diameter, violet to reddish colored. Bracts spine tipped.

Seeds: Deep brown to black, distinctly wrinkled, 3/16" long.

Damage: Dense stands may be impenetrable to both man and animal and nearly eliminate forage use by livestock and big game such as deer and elk. Campsites, riverbeds and parks can be ruined. Infested fields, pastures and yards become **USELESS**.

CONTROL:

Mechanical: Small areas can be dug up. Plants must be cut off below the soil, leaving no leaves attached. Mowing has limited effectiveness. It usually only prevents seed production. If done either immediately prior to flowering or when plants are just starting to flower. When mowing is conducted too early, it may only delay flowering. However, when plants are cut too late in the flowering process, viable seed may still develop. A single mowing is also unlikely to provide satisfactory control.

Herbicide: Tordon, Banvel, 2,4-D, Banvel + 2,4-D, and Escort are effective for controlling scotch thistle. Application rates vary depending on stand density and environmental conditions. Herbicides should be applied in the spring before scotch thistle bolts, or in the fall to rosettes.

Cultural: Establish and maintain dense, vigorous, competitive pasture to prevent scotch thistle establishment. Healthy pasture is particularly important in the fall, when most scotch thistle seeds germinate. Goats will graze scotch thistle, reducing plant numbers and preventing seed production.