

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower head and flower bud. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Scottsdale Bush Heritage Reserve near Bredbo



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Scottsdale Bush Heritage Reserve near Bredbo



Stem Australian Plant Image Index, photographer D Tenaglia, USA



Rosette. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Richard Old, USA.

Common name

Nodding thistle

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Pastures and disturbed sites. Ranges, tablelands, ACT, and Western Slopes. A few records in the Sydney area.

Notes

Introduced annual or **biennial** herb to 1.6 m high. Stems **downy**, and **winged** with spiny lobes. Leaves with spiny margins and tips. Spiny **bracts** surrounding the flower **heads**. Basal leaves 5–30 cm long, 20–100 mm wide, the same colour on both sides, hairy, deeply **dissected**, forming a **rosette**. Stem leaves similar, **alternating** up the stems, 5–10 cm long. Flowers fragrant, smelling of musk. Flower heads 12–500 mm in diameter, hemispherical to globular. **Florets** 18–22 mm long, purple, pink, red, or mauve, occasionally white. Flower heads borne singly, usually nodding. Flowering: November–April.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. General Biosecurity Duty with additional restrictions in Greater Sydney area. Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic.

Carduus nutans* subsp. *nutans in PlantNET. Subspecies are not recognised by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (accessed 30 April 2021)

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Carduus~nutans> (accessed 13 April 2021)

Much of the description above is based on the description in <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/95> (accessed 13 April 2021)

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