

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer CG Wilson, Canada



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer CG Wilson, Canada



Young plant. Photographer JCSchou, Denmark

Common name

Perennial thistle, Canada thistle

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Weed. Mainly on roadsides and wasteland, occasionally in pasture, cropland, and disturbed **woodland** and **grassland**. Sydney area to Kanangra-Boyd National Park and west. Kosciuszko National Park east to Bega and Bombala.

Notes

Introduced perennial herb to 1 m high, forming large colonies. The only thistle in Australia that has **spreading rhizomes**. Leaves with spiny margins. **Bracts** on the flower **heads** spiny. Stems ridged, wingless, **cobwebby** to almost hairless. Leaves basal and **alternating** up the stems, upper surface dark green, lower surface with a white **tomentum**. Basal leaves to 10 cm long, to 40 mm wide, margins wavy to toothed. Stem leaves 1–7 cm long, to 20 mm wide, margins **dissected**. Male and female flowers on different plants. Flower heads globular to oval, 8–25 mm long, 8–25 mm in diameter. Florets pink to mauve, 12–18 mm long, female **florets** perfumed. Flower heads in many-flowered loose clusters. Flowering: Dec.–Feb.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Cirsium-arvense> (accessed 7 January, 2021)

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