

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Don Wood, Yowrie, west of Cobargo



Plant with seed heads. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, ACT



Rosette. Photographer Luigi Rignanese, Italy

Common name

Variegated thistle

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Grassy areas, disturbed sites, damp sites, and along streams. Widespread.

Notes

Introduced annual or **biennial** herb to 3 m tall. Stems, leaf margins, and flower bases spiny. Stems ribbed, hairless to sparsely hairy. Leaves basal and **alternating** up the stems, flat or V-shaped in cross section, upper surface hairless and mostly green with a network of white areas, lower surface hairless or sparsely white-**tomentose**, margins spiny. Basal leaves **dissected** and toothed, 25-60 cm long, 120-300 mm wide. Stem leaves to 30 cm long, 20-200 mm wide, dissected or toothed, with stem clasping basal lobes. Flower **heads** 30-50 mm in diameter, green, more or less globular, with numerous purple to reddish-purple, rarely white, **florets**, 0 **petals**. Flowers Spring to Summer.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Silybum-marianum> (accessed 6 February, 2021)

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