

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW



Flower buds. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW



Stem and leaves. Photographers Forest & Kim Starr, Hawaii



Plant. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW

Common name

Maltese Cockspur, Cockspur Thistle, Saucy Jack

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Weed. **Woodland**, grassy areas, disturbed areas, roadsides, stock routes, and occasionally cultivated land. Western Slopes, Kosciuszko National Park, the mountains to the north, ACT, and tablelands. Coast and ranges north from east of Goulburn.

Notes

Introduced annual herb to 1 m tall. **Bracts** on the flower **heads** spiny. Stems branched, hairy, **winged** in the upper portions. Basal leaves withering before flowering, 4-14 cm long, 10-60 mm wide, **dissected**, hairy with fine hairs or rough. Stem leaves **alternating** up the stems, 1-7 cm long, 2-9 mm wide, sticky, hairy to rough, margins rough and **entire** to toothed, bases continuing down the stems. Flower heads 9-12 mm long, 8-12 mm in diameter, oval to globular, with yellow **florets** 10-15 mm long, 0 **petals**. Flower heads single or in open clusters of 2-3. Flowering: spring-summer.

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

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