

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Don Wood, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, ACT



Plant with flower buds. Photographer Don Wood, Scotia Sanctuary, western NSW



Rosette. Photographer Malcolm Storey, England

Common name

Spear thistle

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Woodland, grassy areas, roadsides, and disturbed sites. Widespread.

Notes

Introduced biennial (occasionally **annual**) herb to 1.5 m tall. Spiny leaf margins, stems, and flower **heads**. Stems **winged, cobwebby**. Leaves in a **rosette** at the base of the plant, later **alternating** up the stems, 4-35 cm long, to 100 mm wide, upper surface green and rough with small prickles, lower surface densely white hairy, margins toothed or the leaves divided. Stem leaves similar to rosette leaves but smaller, with the bases continuing down the stems. Flower heads green, 20-40 mm long, 12-50 mm in diameter, bell-shaped or oval to almost globular, with many pink to purple **florets** 25-35 mm long, 0 **petals**. Flower heads single or 2-4 together. Flowers Spring to Autumn.

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-vulgare> (accessed 7 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



Android edition



iOS edition

Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)