

WANTED



Canada Thistle

**INVASIVE
ALIEN**

Origin –
Europe and
Asia

Canada Thistle was
accidentally introduced in the
1600's and is designated as a
noxious weed in 43 states.

Canada thistle is an extremely widespread weed of agricultural and ecological areas. It invades a variety of dry to moist open habitats including barrens, fields, grasslands, pastures, stream banks, wet meadows and open forests. It is not very tolerant of shade.

Once established, if conditions are suitable, Canada thistle can form dense stands that shade out and displace native plants, changing the plant community structure and species composition and reducing biodiversity. It spreads rapidly.

Management of Canada thistle is very difficult, but can be achieved through cutting, mowing, controlled burning, and chemical means, depending on the level of infestation and the type of area being managed. Due to its perennial nature, entire plants must be killed in order to prevent regrowth from rootstock. Hand-cutting of individual plants or mowing of larger infestations prior to seed set will help reduce spread, but will need to be done repeatedly to exhaust root reserves.

DEAD OR ~~ALIVE~~