

Tyrol Knapweed (*Centaurea nigrescens*)

Description

Perennial with a taproot. Stems are erect, branched, hairless or somewhat sparsely long-hairy, reaches 0.4-1.0 m tall. Basal leaves oblanceolate to elliptic, base tapering into the stalk, deeply to shallowly lobed or irregularly pinnately cut, hairless or often lightly hairy below, up to 15 cm long and 3 cm wide; stem leaves lanceolate, unstalked, reduced upwards. Flower heads discoid, numerous, solitary at the ends of ascending branches; disk flowers reddish-purple, the marginal ones, if present, enlarged, lobed and conspicuous; involucre 12-15 mm tall, 8-11 mm wide; involucral bracts cylindrical, taller than wide, with slightly enlarged, rounded, tattered to comb-like, darker appendages at the tips, these wider than the bracts.

Key Identifiers

- ✓ Lobed leaves, terminal lobe much larger than other lobes, upper leaves are smaller, with few lobes
- ✓ Bract tipped with triangular fringe, which ends abruptly, not tapering down the side of long slender green base of the bract
- ✓ Flower color rose to purple

Location in Canada

BC, Ontario and Quebec have reported the presence of Tyrol Knapweed in Canada.

Resources

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/cepublications/pnw0432/pnw0432.pdf>

Similar species

(*Centaurea* spp.) Other knapweeds are going to be similar to squarrose knapweed. The key feature for differentiating all knapweeds from one another is to compare the unique bracts. The link under “Resources” is an excellent resource to walk you through identifying knapweeds.

May be mistaken for a thistle at a passing glance but upon inspection, leaves and stems of squarrose knapweed lack spines.

