

## Hybrid Knapweed (*Centaurea x psammogena*) [*C. diffusa* × *C. stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*]

### Description

Flowers are purple or white. Bracts have a dark tip (similar to Spotted Knapweed) and long bristles on the margins (similar to Diffuse Knapweed).

### Key Identifiers

- ✓ Plant will share traits from both Spotted and Diffuse Knapweeds

### Location in Canada

BC, Ontario and Quebec are known to have hybrid populations. Since Alberta has both Spotted Knapweed and Diffuse Knapweeds, hybridization between the two is possible.

### Resources

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

### Similar species

(*Centaurea* spp.) Other knapweeds are going to be similar to hybrid 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. Hybrids are extremely difficult to ID correctly. If you have a suspect hybrid please submit a dried sample to a qualified specialist.

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

