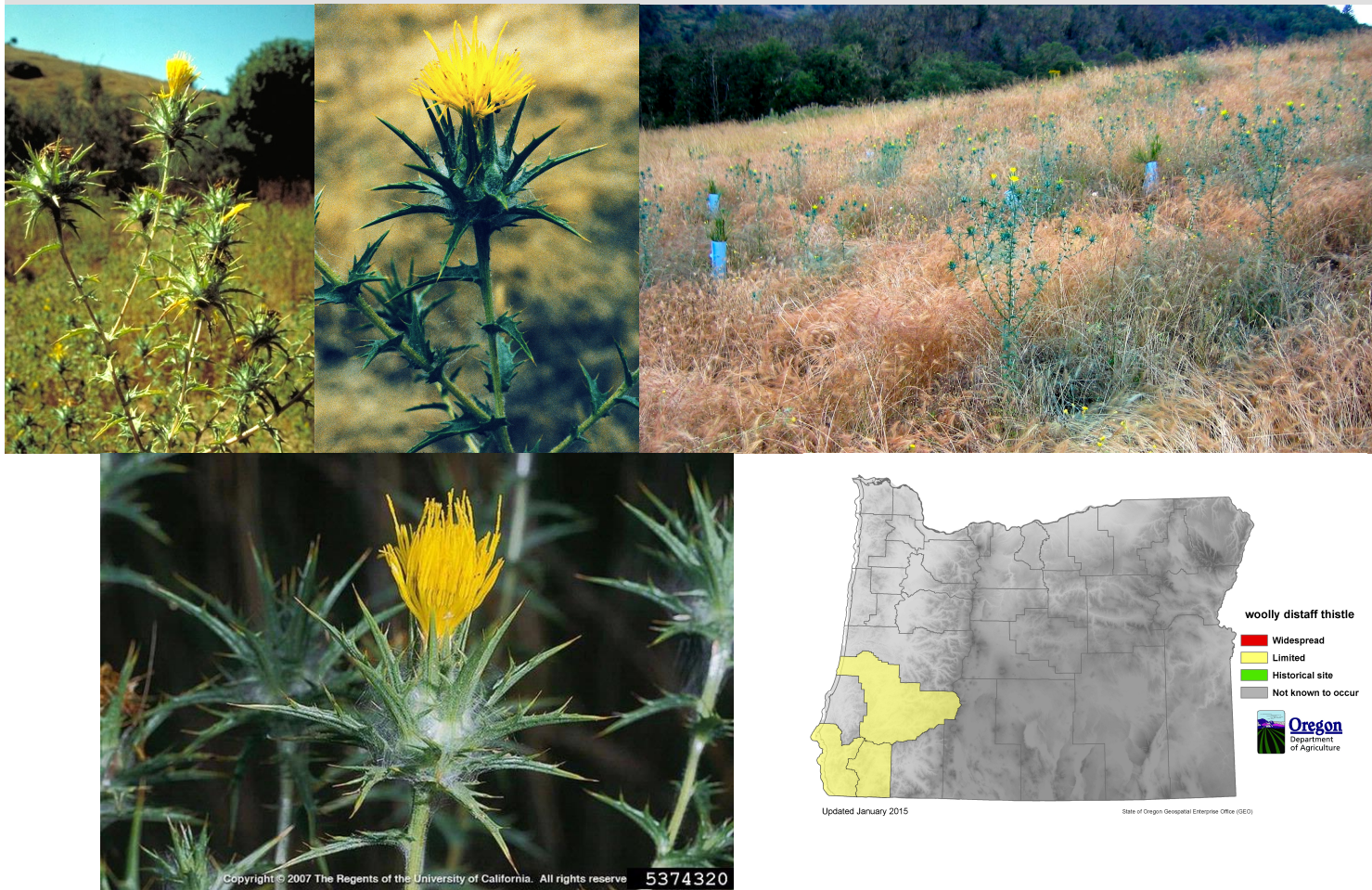


Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Woolly distaff thistle
Carthamus lanatus

Other common names: Saffron thistle, woolly safflower, woolly starthistle, false starthistle

USDA symbol: CALA20
ODA rating: A and T



Introduction: Native to the Mediterranean region of Europe and central Europe it is a very aggressive weed in California and occurring in scattered locations in southwestern Oregon.

Distribution in Oregon: Woolly distaff thistle was discovered in Douglas County in Oregon in 1987. It has increased its distribution only slightly since then.

Description: Woolly distaff thistle is an erect winter annual with rigid stems. It flowers from July through August. It grows up to 3½ feet tall, has spiny pointed leaves that are alternate. The flower head has many long, sharp leaf-like bracts just below the yellow flowers. The rigid stems with old flower heads and leaves often persist through winter and often longer.

Impacts: *Carthamus* species are believed to be the most serious threat to range and pasture lands in Oregon. Dense stands can crowd out other vegetation, livestock and recreational access. Dead plants remain standing, thorned and rigid for at least one year after die back. Woolly distaff thistle is not grazed as it is not palatable to domestic animals or wildlife. Once established, it is difficult to eliminate because of its persistent seedbank.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. This weed is being managed for eradication.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
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www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/AboutWeeds.aspx

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