

What to do if you find squarrose knapweed...

- This is a priority noxious weed. Report suspects sites to Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately!
- Document locations with landmarks or GPS for further investigation.
- Prevent the spread by thoroughly cleaning boots, livestock, vehicles, or equipment of mud and debris that may carry seeds.

Stop squarrose knapweed spread in Oregon!

Report suspect sites to

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
503-986-4621
or call

1-866-INVADER



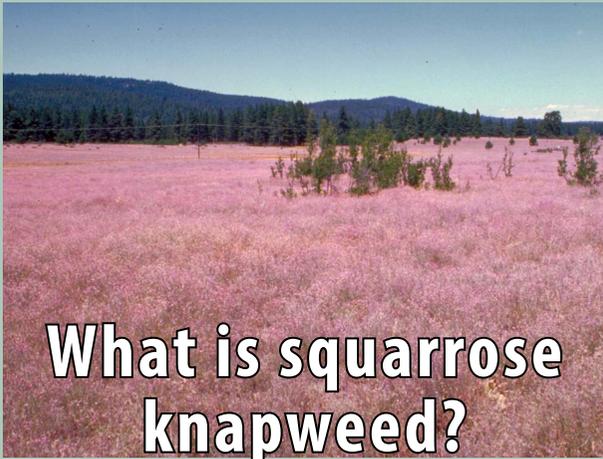
Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97301-2532

Squarrose knapweed *Centaurea virgata*

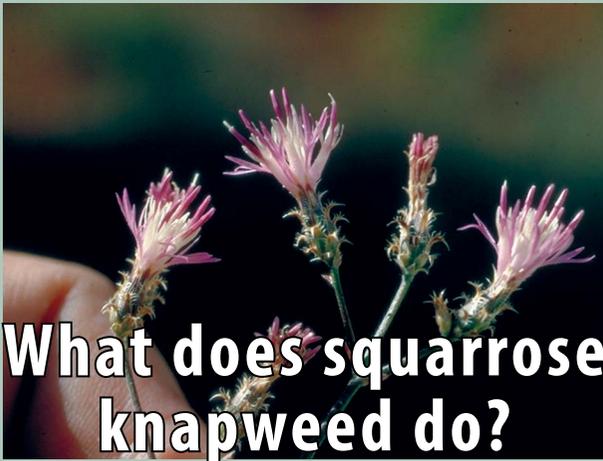
**KNAPWEED
INVADER!**





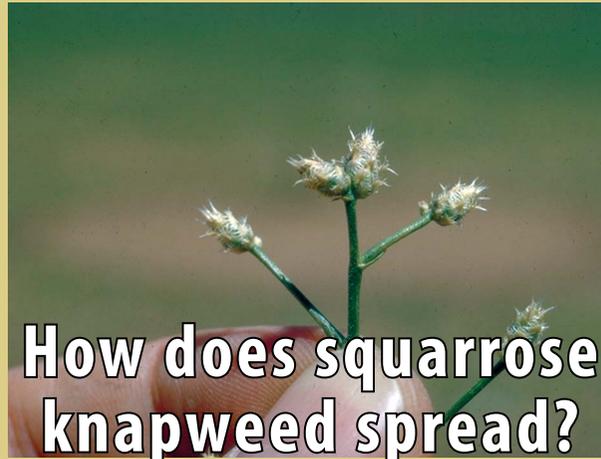
What is squarrose knapweed?

Squarrose knapweed is a rangeland invader of several western states. This drought tolerant plant of the sunflower family is well adapted to east of the Cascades. Introduced from Southeast Asia and the Middle East, it first became weedy in California, Nevada, and Utah in the 1950s. Oregon sites are limited to a few, with the largest found in Grant County near Long Creek.



What does squarrose knapweed do?

Squarrose knapweed invades rangeland and pasture, rendering areas unsuitable to productive grazing. Individual seedheads dislodge from the main plant and cling to fur and clothing, aiding dispersal and spread. The deciduous seedheads readily attach to sheep's wool, increasing production costs. Hay production is negatively impacted when squarrose knapweed invades.



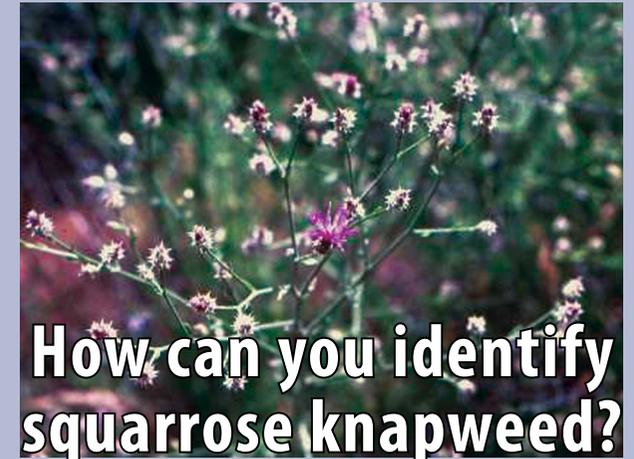
How does squarrose knapweed spread?

Although many seedheads fall near the base of the parent plant, the recurved bracts allow the seeds to cling like burs to hair, wool, fur, or clothing when livestock, wildlife, or people brush against the plant. Not all of the seeds drop during late summer and fall; some seeds remain on plants into the following spring, greatly extending the distribution period. Vehicles and trains along roads and railways also help spread squarrose knapweed.

Distribution in Oregon



- Widely distributed
- Limited distribution
- Not known to occur



How can you identify squarrose knapweed?

Squarrose knapweed grows densely, often mimicking a tumbleweed plant when mature. It has slender, pink to rose colored flowers with spiny, recurved bracts beneath them. Mature plants often break off at the base and tumble, dispersing seedheads along the way. Rosettes have deeply lobbed leaves and form a stout taproot. The leaves wither away on maturing plants, as the season progresses.



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds
Photo credits: Dan Sharratt, ODA
and Jerry Asher, BLM.
Contact 1-866-invader for more information
5/2017