

What to do if you find Taurian thistle...

- This is a priority noxious weed. Please report sites to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately!
- Document sites using landmarks or GPS coordinates for further investigation.
- Please do not plant this weed. Both Taurian and Scotch thistle have been used as ornamentals.
- Prevent the spread by thoroughly cleaning boots, pets, livestock, or equipment—mud and debris may carry seeds.

Stop Taurian thistle spread in Oregon!

**Report suspect
sites to**

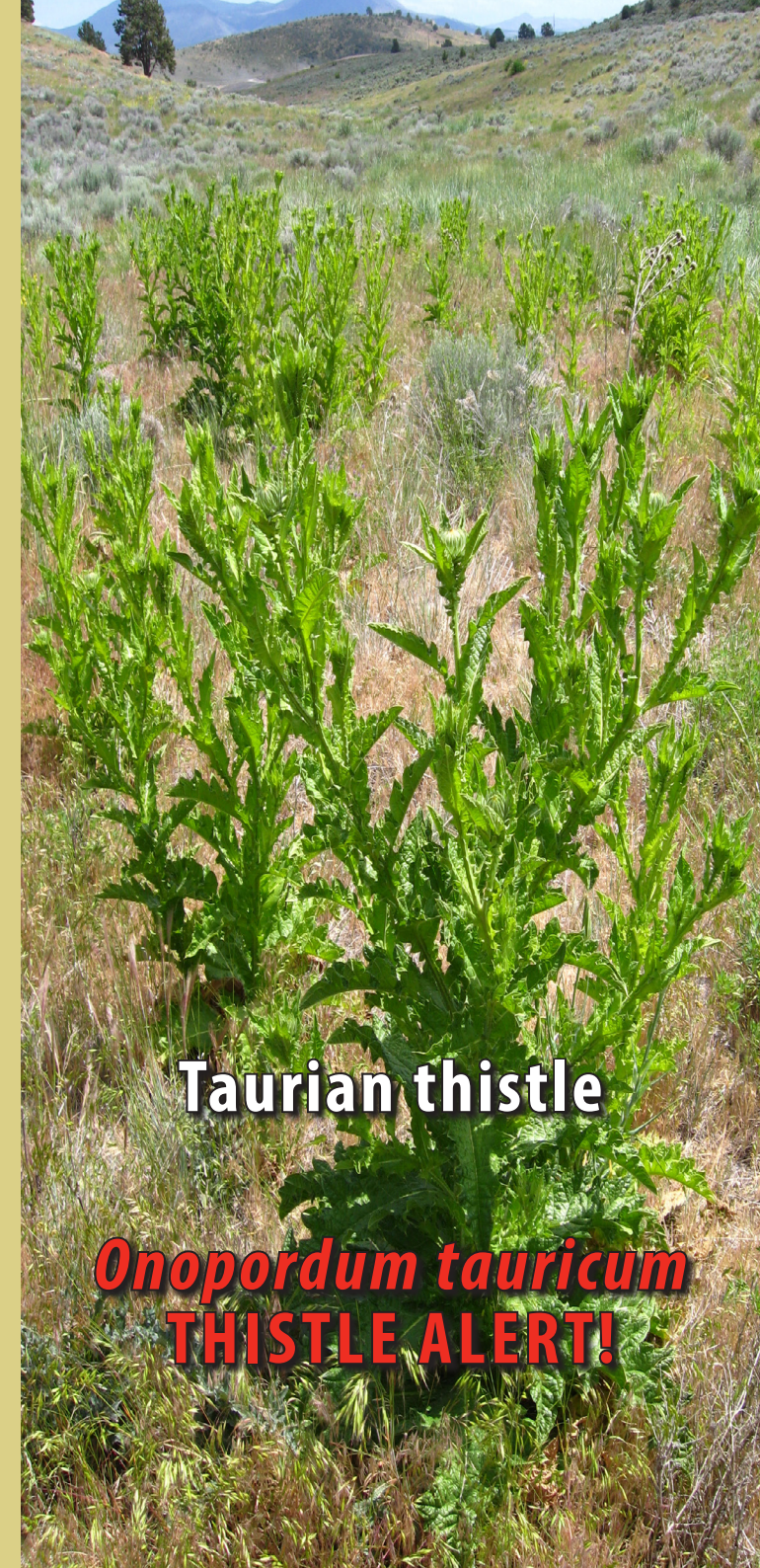
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weed Control Program
503-986-4621
or call

1-866-INVADER



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

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



Taurian thistle

Onopordum tauricum
THISTLE ALERT!



What is Taurian thistle?

Taurian thistle is native to the Middle East and is considered a sister of Scotch thistle, a widespread highly weedy member of the thistle family. First found near Klamath Falls in 2007, there are only two sites known in Oregon. California and Colorado have reported infestations and several sites occur in Modoc and Siskiyou counties, just south of the Oregon border.



What does Taurian thistle do?

Taurian thistle invades rangeland and ponderosa pine forests. Riparian areas are especially susceptible. Dense, monotypic stands form, crowding out native and desirable plants. This thistle reduces forage quality, especially in drought years. Infestations interfere with livestock and wildlife movement and impede recreational activities.



How does Taurian thistle spread?

Reproduction occurs from seed. Most spread is caused by human activity or by livestock and wildlife movement. Seeds germinate in the fall or during summer with adequate moisture. Seeds may remain viable for up to 20 years. Both Scotch and Taurian thistles have been used as ornamentals and are occasionally found for sale in seed catalogs.

Distribution in Oregon



2014 Taurian Thistle



How can you identify Taurian thistle?

Taurian thistle is a tall vigorous biennial or short-lived perennial with conspicuous spiny-winged stems and coarse leaves. Taurian thistle is bright fluorescent lime-green with large solitary flower heads on each stem. Flowers are bright purple and measure three to four inches in diameter with numerous spiny-tipped bracts resembling artichokes. Leaves are covered with short sticky hairs. Seedlings typically appear after the first fall rains and develop into large rosettes. The plant can grow up to eight feet tall.



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds
Photo credits: Bob Barrett and Shannon Brubaker, ODA.
Contact 1-866-invader for more information
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