



KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Usually flowers in the 2nd year, each plant produces 1-6 flowering stems (15 or more on older plants) 20 cm to 1+ m tall. Most stems remain erect after drying, with leaves and flowerhead bracts attached.

flower

Flowerheads are solitary or borne in clusters of 2 or 3, with 25-30 flowers per head.

Distinct **BLACK TIPPED BRACTS**, persistent.

stems

Stems branch in the upper half and bear terminal flowerheads that are 6 mm wide and 12 mm long.

leaves

Alternate and grow smaller near the tops of the stems; basal rosette leaves grow up to 20 cm long and 5 cm wide.

roots

Deep, stout taproot

seeds

Achenes are oval, 3 mm long.

pappus

Simple bristles which are less than the length of the seed (~1-2 mm) and persistent.



Elevation:
1,900-10,000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Great Basin Desert Scrub, plains and Great Basin shrub-grassland, montane wetlands, montane riparian areas, Great Basin conifer woodlands & montane conifer forests.

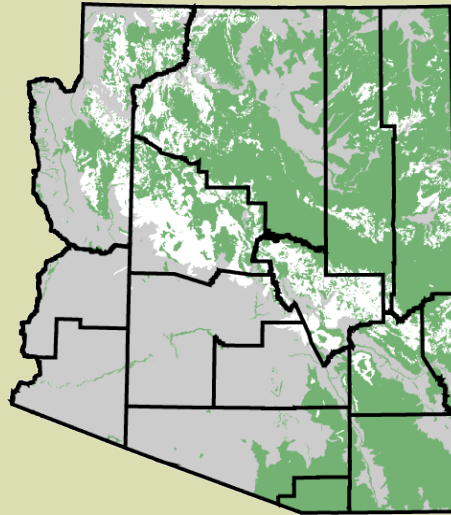
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Spotted knapweed establishes and dominates on dry, disturbed sites, especially along roads. It is also well adapted to open forested areas, especially after logging or other disturbances.

South facing aspect and disturbance are important variables for growth of this plant, especially in grass and shrublands.

Chemical allelopathy of spotted and diffuse knapweeds has been suggested as a mechanism of interference of the growth of other herbaceous species.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

Rosette stage.

