



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial forb. Juvenile stage is a rosette with deeply divided basal leaves borne on short stalks on a central crown with a taproot.

leaves

Basal leaves narrow, with hairy segments, 3-8 cm long, and 1-3 cm wide. Stem leaves stalkless, alternate, getting smaller and less divided higher up the stem.

flower

Heads solitary or borne in clusters of 2 or 3 at the ends of branches. 3-6 mm in diameter and 8-11 mm long, excluding spines and flowers. The petals are **WHITE, ROSE-PURPLE, TO LAVENDER**.

roots

The roots of spotted and diffuse knapweed are taproots similar to dandelion and off-white in color.

seeds

Achenes, 2-3 mm long with a plume of bristles: from scalelike to 1/8 the length of the seed.

bracts

Yellowish with a brownish margin, sometimes spotted, fringed on the sides, and terminating in a slender bristle or spine 1-5 mm long



stems

Mature plants produce 1 upright stem, rarely 2, 1 to 3 ft tall, with numerous, spreading branches that give the plant a ball-shaped appearance and tumble-weed mobility when broken off.



flower color

Elevation:
Up to 7000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Scrublands, desertlands, grasslands, woodlands & forests.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

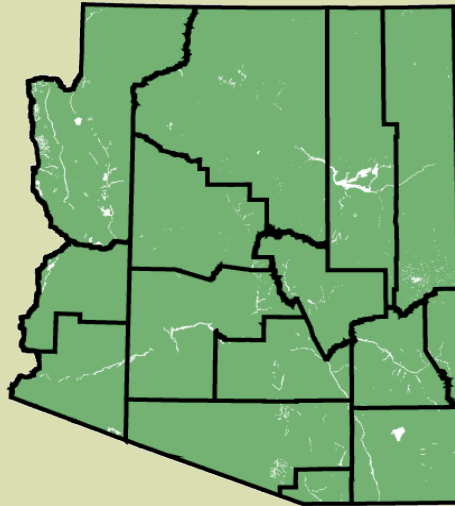
Commonly found on well-drained soils such as sandy or gravelly loams or loamy fine sands.

Germinates in spring (May/June) or late summer/early fall (August/September). Typically plants bolt in May, have flower heads by June-Sept, and have seed heads by mid August.

Diffuse knapweed is a highly competitive and aggressive plant that forms dense colonies in pastures, overgrazed rangelands, croplands, and along riverbanks.

Disturbed or overgrazed lands are prime candidates for colonization, but diffuse knapweed will also invade undisturbed grasslands, shrublands, and riparian communities.

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.

