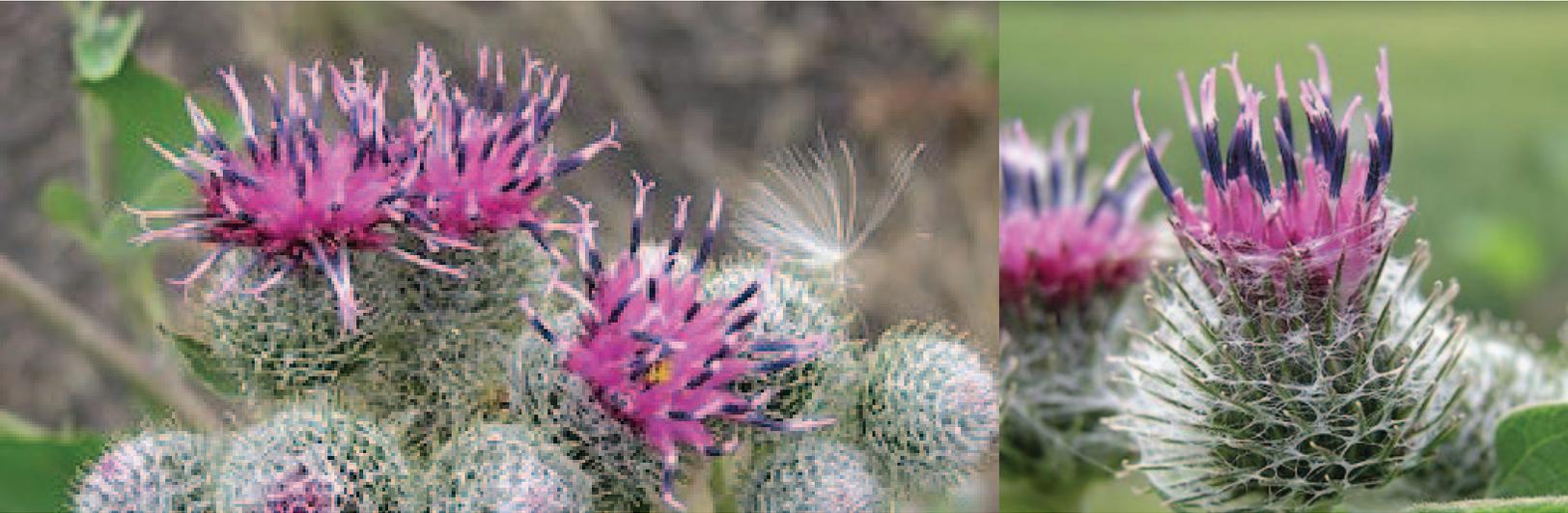




Woolly Burdock

Arctium tomentosum (Aka cotton burdock, downy burdock)



Le.Loup.Gris

Michael Becker

Overview:

Woolly burdock is a biennial member of the Aster family. It produces a mounding rosette of leaves in the first season of growth and a large, cylindrical taproot. In the second year of growth it produces a flowering stalk, and then dies. It is native to Eurasia and tends to occupy sites with disturbed ground.

Flowers are hermaphroditic³ (having both male & female organs) and self-fertile. Flowers are pollinated by insects. Woolly burdock reproduces by seed only. Flowering occurs from July to October.¹

The taproot of burdocks is edible and most parts of the plants have long been used in herbal products.

Habitat:

Woolly burdock grows in most soil types but prefers moist, loamy, well drained soils in full sun.³

Identification:

Stems: Can grow to 250 cm¹ and are branched. Stems are erect and grooved, with white, cobwebby hairs.² Stems are most often light green but can be purplish-tinged.³

Leaves: Are green, alternate and borne on 10-15 cm petioles, which can be hollow or solid.¹ Leaf blades are oval, can be cordate at the base with pointed tips,³ and measure 30-40 x 16-28 cm.¹ Leaf edges can be coarsely dentate to sub-entire. Upper leaf edges may have short, cobwebby hairs and the undersides are sparsely short-hairy.¹

Flowers: Are borne in corymbs (round-topped clusters) on 1.5-12 cm stems.¹ Flowers are composed of 30+ florets which are rose-purple (occasionally white) with 9-13 mm petals. The involucre (flowers base) are 15-25 mm in diameter¹ and covered with spiny involucral scales which are densely cobwebby hairy³ Seeds are light brown, 5-8 mm long with a 1-3 mm pappus (bristle) at the tip.¹

Prevention:

Disturbed sites should be reclaimed with desirable vegetation to prevent burdock es-

tablishment. Control of biennial plants such as burdock is best done in the first year of growth/rosette stage or prior to flowering in the bolt stage. The burred seed is easily dispersed via human and animal movement - access to infestations that have gone to seed should be prevented until control work can take place. Additionally, control work of mature plants must prevent seed dispersal.

Control:

Grazing: Cattle are not known to graze burdock. The barbed flower heads can become entangled in livestock hair causing mats or injuries around the eyes. *Invasive plants should never be considered as forage.*

Mechanical: Rosettes can be hand dug. Mature plants can be cut or dug up prior to flowering.

Chemical: Currently no selective herbicides are registered for use on woolly burdock. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Always read and

continued next page

Woolly Burdock (Continued)

follow label directions Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

Biological: None researched to date.



Rosette

herba.folklore.ee



Leaves

botanika.wendys.cz



Mature Plant

Henrik Kettunen

REFERENCES

- 1 *Arctium tomentosum* in Flora of North America. www.efloras.org
- 2 *Arctium tomentosum*. Flora of Italy. www.actaplatarum.org
- 3 *Arctium tomentosum*. www.botany.cz/cs/arctium-tomentosum/