



Tyrol knapweed

Centaurea nigrescens Willd. (aka short-fringed knapweed, volchin knapweed)



Martin Cilensek



Pancrazio Campagna

Overview:

Tyrol knapweed is a perennial forb native to western Asia and southwestern Europe. Like other knapweeds, it produces a rosette of leaves in its first year of growth and then develops a woody root crown from which flowering stalks grow each successive year. Flowering occurs from July to September.²

Knapweeds are invaders of rangelands and open forests. They can be difficult to distinguish from each other, however the characteristics of the bract is unique to each species.

Habitat:

Sandy, loamy or coarse, well drained soils of grasslands and open forests.

Identification:

Stems: Single to a few erect or ascending, openly branched stems grow 30-150 cm tall. Stems are rough textured and more or less covered with fine, white, cobwebby hairs.¹

Leaves: Basal and lower stems leaves are 5-25 cm long, with petioles, and broadly lance-shaped or elliptic. Leaf margins are shallowly dentate to irregularly pinnately lobed. Leaves decrease in size upper stem, are sessile (no petioles), linear to lance-shaped, and may be entire or dentate.¹

Flowers: Are solitary at branch tips and composed of 40-100+ purple (rarely white), 15-18 mm long florets. The outer ring of florets is usually larger than the inner ring.² The base of flower heads are 15-18 mm diameter, oval-shaped, usually longer than wide² and covered with overlapping bracts. Bracts are dark brown to black¹ and broadly oblong.² Each bract is tipped with a dark fringe of tooth-comb-like wiry lobes in 6-8 pairs.¹ Seeds are tan, 2.5-3 mm long, sometimes with a pappus of many unequal 0.5-1 mm bristles.¹ Seeds may have faint linear stripes and an oblique scar where they detach from the head.²

Prevention:

Seeds can be dispersed in soil, hay, animal hair/fur or by plants caught in vehicles.

Rangelands susceptible to Tyrol knapweed invasion must be kept in a healthy condition.

Control:

Grazing: Unknown. Invasive plants should never be considered as forage.

Mechanical: Small infestations can be hand pulled or dug up before seed set. The root crown must be removed to prevent re-sprouting. Once a seed bank has developed seasonal control efforts will be required for many years.

Chemical: Currently no selective herbicides are registered for use on Tyrol knapweed. 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 follow label directions. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

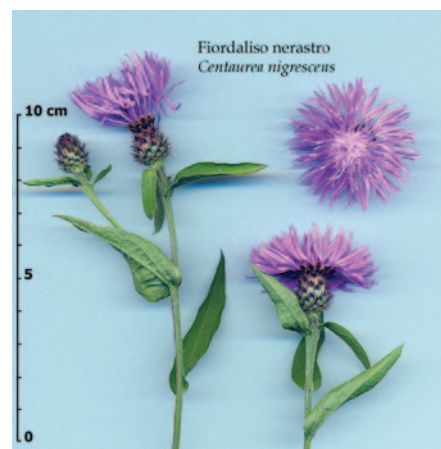
Biological: None researched to date.

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Tyrol knapweed (Continued)



Andrea Moro



www.neorurale.net

REFERENCES

- 1 *Centaurea nigrescens* in Flora of North America. www.efloras.org
- 2 Identification of Knapweeds and Starthistles in the Pacific Northwest. PNW 432. Pacific Northwest Extension.