

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## BIGHEAD KNAPWEED

*(Centaurea macrocephala)*

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Tap-rooted perennial with upright stem.
- Grows to 1.7 m tall; tallest of the knapweeds in the Pacific Northwest.
- Single, globe-shaped yellow flower head (2.5 -8 cm diameter) with light green to tan bract.
- Alternate leaves may have hairs and become smaller moving up the stem.
- Reproduces by seed or root divisions.
- Seeds dislodged from plant by direct contact.
- Spread by livestock, farm equipment, vehicles, but rarely by wind.
- Grows in disturbed corridors and open, grassy areas such as fields, pastures and roadsides.
- *New sites are likely as this plant is distributed as a garden ornamental!*

**PRIMARY THREAT: Decreases palatable forage, alters soil nutrient cycles.**

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- REPORT sightings.
- SELECT non-invasive plants for your garden.
- Don't move soil (fill).



### REPORT PROHIBITED SPECIES

[www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca)

1-888-WEEDSBC



### DISTRIBUTION IN BC

*Reported in the Salmon Arm area, Nelson area, and east of Hudson Hope. Likely occurs elsewhere in gardens.*



For more information: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm)