

State Prohibited Noxious Weeds

Musk Thistle – *Carduus nutans*



Biennial (rosette year 1, bolted year 2) – 2 to 7 feet tall

Leaves are dark green with light green midrib and are deeply lobed with spiny edges

Stems are branched and covered with spiny winged leaflets

Flowers are large (3 inch dia.), deep pink to rose in color, and surrounded by stout/pointed leaf-like bracts

Flowers are borne on long-smooth solitary stalks and tend to nod or droop (sometimes called noddling thistle)

Reproduces by seed