

Scott's(Scotch) Thistle (*Onopordum acanthium* L.)



Scott's thistle is a Class A Weed, It is found mostly in the northwest and north central parts of the state. This means that complete extirpation is still possible.

One of the largest thistles, it can get to 10 feet tall, but most are closer to 5 feet tall.

Note that most, if not all stem branching is near the top.



Here we see 2 "heads". The one on the left is immature; the flowers are not yet formed. The one on the right is mature. Note the "thistle" shape of this head. It is indented in the middle between the many individual magenta flowers and a sphere-shaped spiny structure (which the botanists call a "involucre") just below these flowers. Also note the stout spines on the stem, and the thick membrane-like tissue that stretches between these spines. This tissue is an extension of the stem that is called the "wings".



The stem runs from the bottom left center of the drawing to the lower part of the "involucre". The "wings" and their stout spines border the stem for its entire length. The artist separated the flowers from the involucre to illustrate both better. The most clear drawing of a leaf is just to the left of the involucre. Note that the leaf has a center vein that is quite similar to the stem. An enlarged drawing of an individual flower is shown in the extreme right center of the drawing. The thin style is on top, the single 4 lobed petal is next, then the