



# WEEDS BY THE LAKE

*AN LWSS INITIATIVE*

## Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

This weed can be found everywhere except waterlogged soils and spots that see only shade. It is an extremely aggressive species that will completely take over an area if not controlled. It spreads primarily by fast growing roots that spread horizontally to create new shoots, and vertically to a depth of 6 metres. The depth of these roots is the reason that tillage is not a viable control method, and actually helps to spread the infestation. It can be identified by the sharp spines on the leaves and the whitish-purple flowers.

Control options for Canada Thistle consist of mowing, hand pulling, and chemical, depending on the plants location. Mowing, by itself, must be done throughout the growing season so that the plant uses up all of it's nutrient reserves, however, this method may take a few growing seasons.

Provided that there is enough distance between the infestation and a water body, a combination of mowing in the spring/summer, followed by a chemical application in the fall, is the most effective.



### **Interesting Fact: Canada Thistle is not Canadian, it's European.**

If you have any questions about the above information please visit the Alberta Invasive Plant Council website at

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/management.htm>

or contact your respective municipality:

County of Barrhead  
(780) 674-3331

[www.countybarrhead.ab.ca](http://www.countybarrhead.ab.ca)

Lac Ste. Anne County  
1-866-880-5722

[www.gov.lacsteanne.ab.ca](http://www.gov.lacsteanne.ab.ca)



For questions about Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds along water bodies (Crown bed and shore), you may also contact your local Sustainable Resource Development office.

