



Canada Thistle is a colony-forming Perennial with a very tenacious and extensive root system. As with all thistles, it is best characterized by the thorny nature of its leaf structure and the pinkish purple clusters of flowers. A native of southeastern Eurasia it was introduced to Canada as a contaminant of crop seed in the early 18th century. It differs from other thistles in that through asexual reproduction it is possible for a colony of all male plants producing no fruits to still maintain itself. Quite difficult to control, for plowing and breaking up the roots only serves to increase the colony size. Typically flowering occurs from June through August.