



There are many species of **Knapweeds** the most common of which are **Diffuse** and **Spotted**. Diffuse is a diffusely branched annual or short-lived perennial while Spotted is a biennial or short-lived perennial both come from the Sunflower family growing 1'-3' tall. Flowers of Diffuse are small and plentiful ranging in color from white to rose or occasionally purple while Spotted has pinkish-purple flowers. Introduced from Eurasia, knapweeds have infested massive amounts of pastures and rangeland dramatically decreasing forage and agricultural value. In Montana alone Spotted knapweed covers some 4.5 million acres costing ranchers more than \$40 million annually in lost productivity and control efforts. So rampant is this weed that elk have actually changed their migration routes to avoid it. It is considered one of the worst invasive species in the United States. These highly competitive plants emit toxins, called catechin into the soil. North American grasses have yet to adapt to catechin which can actually kill native plants.