

Bighead Knapweed (*Centaurea macrocephala*)

Description

Perennial with several un-branched stems. Grows to 50-170 cm in height. Leaves are light-green in color, leaf much longer (5-20 cm) than wide (2-10 cm), with widest point below middle, wavy/toothed edges, hairy and pointed tips. Bracts are thin & papery, with fringed edges. Flower: is yellow color and approx. 6 cm across.

Key Identifiers

- ✓ Bigheaded flower
- ✓ Huge flower buds, covered with papery metallic brown scales, look somewhat like artichokes

Location in Canada

Flora of North America lists locations in only Ontario and Quebec for Canada. Ornamental plants are known to exist throughout Alberta. Possible escape is possible, and of concern, as bighead knapweed is identified as an invader.

Resources

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/cepublications/pnw0432/pnw0432.pdf>

Similar species

Not aware of any confusing species.

