Woolly Burdock (*Arctium tomentosum*)

**Description**
Woolly Burdock is a tall biennial, reaching as much as 2.5 m. The fleshy tap-root can grow up to 1 m long. The stout, grooved, rough stem has multiple branches. Basal leaf stems are hollow or solid. It has large (up to 40 cm) alternating, heart shaped leaves that have a long petiole, very wavy margins and are pubescent on the underside. The flowers are purple and grouped in globular flower head, united in clusters. The flower head is surrounded by a whorls of bracts, each curving to form a Velcro like hook, allowing them to be carried long distances on the fur of animals. Bracts are densely cobwebby.

**Key Identifiers**
- Large plant and leaves
- Lower leaf stalks are both hollow and solid
- Whorl of cobwebby bracts under 2.5 cm in diameter
- Long stalked flowers
- Flowers clumped along stem with branches in groups
- Velcro like hooks on bracts

**Location in Canada**
Lesser Burdock occurs in all Canadian Provinces from Newfoundland to Alberta. Sometimes grown for medicinal purposes.

**Resources**
- [http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/weedguid/burdock.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/weedguid/burdock.htm)
- [http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5140](http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5140)

**Similar species**
Great Burdock (*Arctium lappa*) lower leaf stalks are solid and flower heads are more than 2.5 cm across
Lesser Burdock (*Arctium minus*) flowers heads are usually sessile to short stems with very few branches and the flower heads are less than 2.5 cm across.