

RUSSIAN KNAPWEED

(Centaurea repens)

GROWTH HABIT: Perennial, forming dense colonies by adventitious shoots from widely spreading black roots.

LEAVES: Lower leaves deeply lobed, 2 to 4 inches long; upper leaves entire or serrate, narrow to a sessile base.

STEMS: Woody, upper portion is branched.

FLOWERS: Small cone-shaped heads, pink to lavender, solitary at tip of leafy branchlets. Many pearly involucral bracts form with rounded or papery margins.

ROOTS: Black, deep growing roots that can penetrate to a depth of more than 8 feet.

SEEDS: Oblong, gray-brown about $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch in length; ridged and covered with fine, white hairs and a ring of bristles on the apex of the seed.

