

SCOTCH THISTLE

(*Onopordum acanthium* L.)

GROWTH HABIT: Biennial, sometimes annual, erect, up to 8 feet tall. Rosette formed first year, flowering stem second year.

LEAVES: Large, coarsely lobed, hairy on both sides, velvety gray appearance. Margins lined with sharp spines. Basal leaves up to 2 feet long and 1 foot wide.

STEMS: Erect, branching, spiny leaf wings extend down onto stem.

FLOWER: Solitary, terminal, 1 to 2 inches in diameter, violet to reddish colored. Bracts spine tipped.

ROOTS: Large fleshy taproot.

SEEDS: Deep brown to black, distinctly wrinkled, $\frac{3}{16}$ inch long.

