



Carduus nutans

Common Name(s):

nodding thistle

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of roadsides, pasture, wasteland and amongst crops such as lucerne. Will grow in most soil types.

Features:

An erect thistle growing to 1.6m high (commonly 80-120cm), with a stout, branched, fleshy taproot up to 40cm deep. Rosette leaves are usually long, narrow and deeply cut into many narrow lobes with spiny edges and green and only sparsely hairy on both surfaces. The upper surface of the leaf often has a metallic sheen and a whitish marginal zone, especially at the base of the spines. Flowering stems are erect (up to 1.5m) and a purple flower head which droops. Seeds are large, heavy (3-4mm long) with a pappus of fine toothed bristles 15-25mm long.

Flowering:

November, December,
January, February

Fruiting:

(November)-
December-May.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3633



Caption: Nodding thistle, *Carduus nutans*

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: *Carduus nutans*, nodding thistle

Photographer: John Barkla