



Cirsium arvense

Common Name(s):

Californian thistle

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial.

Features:

Rhizomatous perennial often forming large patches. Stems branched above; fine cobwebby hairs below, becoming glabrous above, (20)-40-100-(150)cm tall, ribbed, not winged or sometimes with a spiny wing 0-1-(2) cm long decurrent from leaf bases. Leaves lanceolate, pinnatifid, green above, pale beneath, (2)-4-15 x 1-5cm, glabrous or with cobwebby hairs; lobes deltoid to lanceolate; prickles pale, 5-10mm long. Capitula narrowly ovoid to cylindric at flowering, erect, 1.5-2-(2.5) X 0.7-1.5-(2) cm in cymes or cymose panicles; peduncles 5-40 mm long. Outer involucre racts linear, ciliate; apex acute, not spinous, erect. Corolla usually pale purple or mauve, sometimes white, 12-18mm long; lobes c. 3mm long. Style slightly exerted beyond corolla lobes. Achenes pale, cylindric, 3-4 X 1-1.5 mm; pappus 20-25 mm long, shorter in male; cilium on pappus bristles 2-3 mm long. (Webb et al., 1988).

Flowering:

December, January, February

Fruiting:

December-April

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3691



Caption: *Cirsium arvense*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: a picture of *Cirsium arvense*
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