



## *Cirsium palustre*

### Common Name(s):

marsh thistle

### Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

### Distribution:

Scattered throughout both islands, absent from drier areas, common in Westland

### Habitat:

Wet pasture and swampy waste places.

### Features\*:

Fibrous rooted biennial. Stems not branched, or branched above, with soft scattered multicellular and fine cobwebby hairs, (20)-80-150-(200) cm tall, ribbed, with coarsely spiny wings between leaf bases; branches slender. Leaves oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic, shallowly to deeply pinnatifid, green above, paler beneath, (5)-10-25-(35) X (1.5)-3-8-(15) cm, with sparse soft multicellular hairs above and beneath, often also with sparse to dense cobwebby tomentum beneath; Leaf lobes narrowly deltoid to linear; prickles pale, 2-10 mm long; uppermost leaves becoming smaller. Capitula cylindrical to narrowly ovoid at flowering, erect, 1.2-1.5 X 1 cm, in clusters of up to 10; peduncles 0-1 cm long. Outer involucral bracts linear, ciliate; apex acute, not spinous, suberect. Carolla magenta, 11-12 mm long; lobes 3.5-4-(5) mm long. Style slightly exerted beyond carolla lobes. Achenes pale, narrowly obovoid, 3-3.5 X c. 1 mm; pappus 8-12 mm long; cilia on pappus bristles 1-2 mm long.

### Flowering:

November - to February

### Fruiting:

November-March-(May)

### \*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al., (1988).

### References and further reading:

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=3705](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3705)



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



**Caption:** Progress Valley, Catlins  
(leaf detail)  
**Photographer:** Jesse Bythell