

# Lincoln National Forest

## Invasive Species to Watch Out For



L.L. Berry, Bugwood.org

### Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

**Appearance:** an herbaceous, biennial plant that grows to 6 ft. tall. The stem has very spiny wings.

**Foliage:** First year plants are rosettes of leaves that are low to the ground. Second year the leaves are alternate on the stem, 2-6 in. long, lance-shaped, coarsely lobed tipped with spines, and very hairy.

**Flowering Head:** Develop at the top of the plant, heads are 1-2 in. wide, showy, solitary, nodding, hemispherical, red to purple, and comprised of hundreds of tiny flowers.

**Fruit/Seeds:** Fruits are small, 1.52 in. long, and include a fringe of white to light brown hairs and disperse like dandelion seeds.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

### Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

**Appearance:** A biennial, herbaceous plant that invades disturbed areas throughout the United States. The spiny, spreading, winged stems are up to 7 ft. tall and may be hairy.

**Foliage:** First year plants are rosettes of leaves that are low to the ground. Second year the leaves are alternate on the stem, 3-12 in. long, lance-shaped with deep lobes tipped with spines, and very hairy.

**Flowering Heads:** flowers develop at the top of the plant. Flower heads are 1.5-2 in. in diameter and 1-2 in. long with narrow, spine-tipped bracts and are composed of hundreds of pink to purple tiny flowers.

**Fruit/Seeds:** fruits have several bristles on the tip, are up to 0.2" long, and disperse like dandelion seeds.

Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org



Theodore Webster, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

### Teasel (*Dipsacus* spp.)

**Appearance:** An upright, biennial or short lived perennial herbaceous plant that grows 6.5-10 ft. tall. The stems are rigid and prickly.

**Foliage:** First year plants are rosettes of leaves that are low to the ground. Second year, plants will grow tall and leaves will be opposite, lacking a leaf stem with the base wrapped around the stem, and widest at their base. Some species may have smooth edged leaves but others are deeply lobed along their length.

**Flowering Head:** Egg-shaped flower heads are formed at the ends of stems and contain 250-1500 densely packed, tiny, white or pale purple flowers. Heads will be 1-4 in. tall and with several long bracts curving from the stem to nearly the height of the head.

**Fruit/Seeds:** fruits are tiny, rectangular, and light brown.



Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org

### Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)


**Appearance:** a biennial herbaceous plant that grows 3-8 ft. tall. Stems are stout, hollow, ridged, and purple-spotted. All plant parts are poisonous; however, the seeds contain the highest concentration of poison.

**Foliage:** First year plants are rosettes of leaves that are low to the ground. Second year plants have leaves that are alternate on the stem, up to 18 in. long and 12 in. wide, shiny green, triangular shaped, 3-4 times pinnately compound (leaf is made up of many smaller leaflets), and clasp the stem at the swollen nodes.



**Flowering Head:** Flowers are small, white, and held in rounded umbels (umbrella shaped heads) of about 100-400 flowers about 2-5 in. across. Umbels develop from upper stems and each plant may have several.




**Fruit/Seeds:** Fruits are ovate, ridged, and flattened, holding two seeds.



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