

# STOP THE INVASION

## YELLOW STARHISTLE

*Centaurea solstitialis*

**YELLOW STARHISTLE DECREASES THE PRODUCTION OF FORAGE FOR LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE, AND THE DIVERSITY OF NATIVE HABITATS.**

### UNWANTED PLANTS

#### Origin

An annual or winter-annual from Europe that was likely introduced to North America around 1850 as a seed contaminant.

#### Status

Today yellow starthistle can be found in most of the temperate areas around the world. It is widespread in Canada and the United States.

#### Impacts

Prolific seed producer, spreads rapidly forming dense populations and displacing native vegetation. Can cause chewing disease and if ingested by horses can cause lethal neurological disorder.

#### Where to Look

Yellow starthistle has spread and invaded pastures, rangeland, native prairies, cultivated lands, roadsides, and wasteland areas.



#### LOOK FOR:

- ◆ **STEMS:** FROM MAY TO JUNE IT GROWS FROM 0.6 TO 1 METER IN HEIGHT. STEMS ARE WINGED AND COVERED IN WHITE WOOLLY HAIR.
- ◆ **SEEDS:** SEEDS MATURE IN LATE SUMMER. ONE TYPE SPREADS BY WIND, THE OTHER DROPS TO THE GROUND.
- ◆ **FLOWERS:** YELLOW WITH BRACTS THAT EXTEND INTO SPINES.

**PREVENT THE SPREAD INTO MANITOBA**  
Manual control is very effective for dealing with yellow starthistle, small populations can be controlled by hand pulling, hoeing, or cutting.

#### Report a Sighting!

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