

# BULL THISTLE

*Cirsium vulgare*



University of Georgia

|               |                  |               |  |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|--|
| Mature Height | 3 to 6 feet      | Soil Type     | Prefers fertile silt loam to loam          |
| Mature Spread | 1 to 2 feet      | Flower Color  | Pink to Purple                             |
| Mature Form   | Erect & Branched | Foliage Color | Leaves Dark Green on top, Silver on bottom |
| Growth Rate   | Fairly Rapid     | Fall Color    | Drab brown                                 |
| Sun Exposure  | Prefers Full Sun |               |  |
| Soil Moisture | Moist to dry     |               |  |

The Bull Thistle is very spiny and is a common plant that occurs in most Indiana counties. It is a biennial, forming a rosette in the first year and an erect branched blooming stem in the second year. This thistle is from Eurasia, and it has existed in the United States since the 19th century, if not earlier. Habitats include pastures, abandoned fields, fence rows, lawns, golf courses, areas along roadsides and railroads, cut-over woods, and miscellaneous waste areas. This species prefers disturbed areas and it is not common in high quality natural areas. A good control technique is a foliar spray on the first year rosettes of triclopyr plus 2,4-D in the late fall or in the early spring before flower stalk formation.



Flower



Branched Stem



First year Plant



Fluffy Seed

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This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

