Your vigilance is required to keep this weed from becoming established in Nevada’s dry rangelands. Squarrose knapweed seed is easily spread by livestock and wildlife, and it is a long-lived or true perennial.

Distinguishing features:

- Grows 18 inches to 3 feet tall. The stems are very branched and commonly arise from the base of the plant.
- Lower leaves are disjoined, while the upper leaves are small and bract-like.
- Showy, rose to pink “flowers” are in clusters of four to eight individual blooms. These blooms are small, less than ½ inch long, and urn shaped. The bracts of the flower head have terminal yellow spines.

Take action:

- Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- Remove all weed seeds from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area.
- Dispose of the seeds, shoots, and roots in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may also be available to kill this plant.

Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension
775-784-1334;
Nevada Division of Agriculture
Bureau of Plant Industry,
775-688-1180; or
Your local Weed District manager or Conservation District:

WANTED—Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

Squarrose Knapweed

Alias: Centaurea virgata spp. squarrosa

Squarrose knapweed, like other knapweeds, is native to Eurasia. Although not common, where it is found, it is an invasive weed. It is invading rangelands in California, Oregon, and Utah. It will require vigilance to keep this knapweed from becoming established in Nevada’s dry rangelands. Squarrose knapweed seed is easily spread by livestock and wildlife. It is a long-lived or true perennial. This distinguishes it from diffuse knapweed. Also, the flower head is distinctly different from other knapweeds, as the terminal spines of the bracts at the base of the flower point out at 90 degrees.