

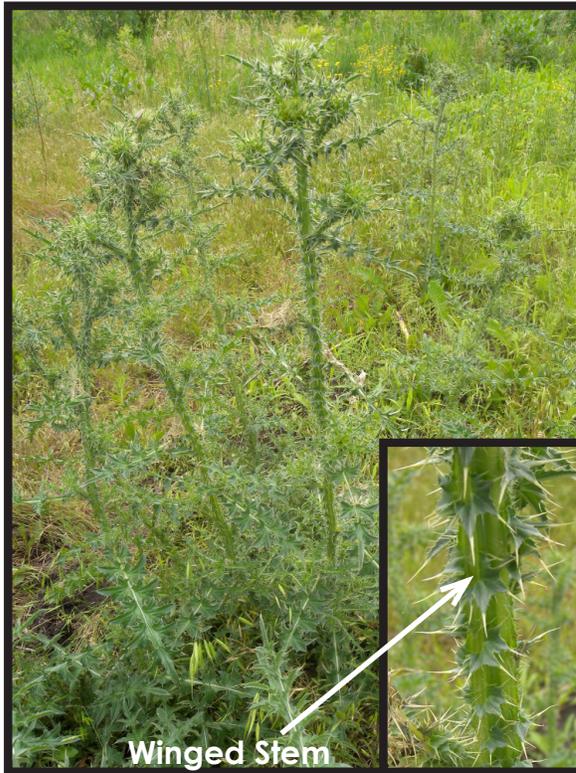
# Plumeless thistle

*Carduus acanthoides*

Minnesota C-Value: 0

Wetland Indicator Status: N/A

**Non-Native**



**Leaves:** Mature plants have deeply lobed spiny lanceolate leaves 12-25 cm long. Bases of leaves extend down along the stem as prickly wings. First year rosette has dark green leaves with a light midrib. Often has white margins. Fuzzy underside midrib.

**Stems:** 1-4 ft tall erect and branching stem with spiny wings. Taproot stout and fleshy. Stalks are long and winged.

**Flowers and fruit:** 1-2 in wide erect solitary or clusters of 2 to 5 flowers. Spiny bracts at the base. Seeds are capped by a ring of bristles.

**Plant communities:** Dry over-grazed areas, fields, pastures, woodlands, roadsides, ditches, and stream banks.

**Comments:** Prohibited noxious weed in Minnesota. Biennial. Similar to *C. nutans* which lacks winged stem and has drooping flower heads.

