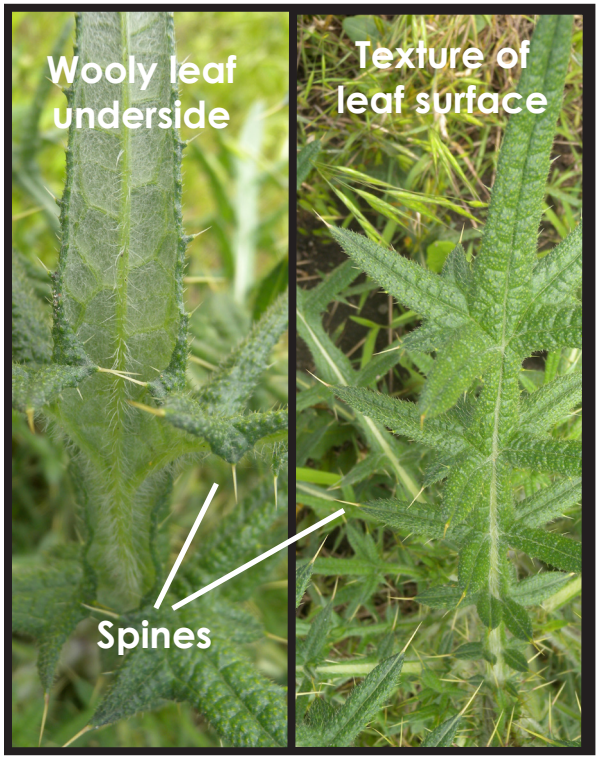
Bull Thistle
Cirsium vulgare

Minnesota C-Value: 0

Wetland Indicator Status: FACU-
Non-native



Leaves: 8 - 15 cm long, alternate, lance shaped. Deeply lobed, with each lobe ending in a stiff spine. Rough and hairy on upper surface with soft whitish hairs underneath.

Stems: 2-6 ft tall with upright branches. Leaf sheath extends down stem as spiny wings. Stems are sparsely hairy.

Flowers and fruit: Pinkish purple flower heads, up to 4 cm wide. Clustered or solitary at the end of branches. Surrounded by spiny bracts. In bloom July through September.

Plant communities: Uplands, pastures, roadsides, and other disturbed areas.

Comments: Biennial. Prohibited noxious weed in Minnesota. Generally found as single or scattered plants.