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Conference

Major  
Project

Partners:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Burt County Board of Supervisors
- Cuming County Board of Supervisors
- Dakota County Commissioners
- Thurston County Board of Supervisors
- Washington County Board of Supervisors

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# Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D

## Education: Noxious Weed - Pocket ID Guide

Five County Weed Superintendents organized to become The Middle Missouri Valley Weed Management Area (MMVWMA). The group is hosted and facilitated by the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D. This year, the MMVWMA and the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D designed and printed 1,000 copies of a “**Noxious Weed - Pocket ID Guide**” which includes a color photo and a description of all 9 of Nebraska’s Noxious and Invasive Weed Species. The booklet also contains conversion information for metric to English, English to metric, and metric to metric. The Weed Superintendents hand these Pocket ID Guides out during one-on-one contacts with farmers as an educational tool. The feedback they’ve received about the guide has been overwhelmingly positive.



### Plumeless Thistle

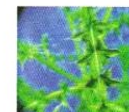
(*Carduus acanthoides*)

**Spiny plumeless thistle** is an annual or biennial herbaceous plant that grows to 5 ft. tall. It is an invader of pastures and other disturbed areas throughout parts of the western, central, and northeastern United States, as well as southern Canada. Flowering occurs from May to August. The flower heads are red to purple in color and up to 1 in. in diameter. Flower stems are branched with spiny wings extending to the flower heads.

**Leaves:** Sessile against stem, deeply lobed with spiny margins, stems are spiny.

**Flowers:** 1 - 2" diameter, purple to white, has spiny bracts.

**Height:** 1 - 4 feet.



Spiny plumeless thistle infests open, disturbed areas such as pastures, roadsides, and railroad right-of-ways. It can form dense stands that reduce the forage potential of pastures and suppress the growth of more desirable vegetation. Spiny plumeless thistle is native to Europe and Asia and was first discovered in the United States in Camden, New Jersey in 1878.