

Know Your Thistles!

Canada thistle

Cirsium arvense
Flowers pink-purple to white. Stem not prickly.
Involucre 1-2 cm.
Non-native.



Native swamp thistle

Cirsium muticum. Flowers purple. Stem not prickly.
Involucre 2-3.5 cm. Bracts tomentose.
Native. Not common.



European swamp thistle

Cirsium palustre: Flowers purple. Stem spiny-winged.
Involucre 1-2 cm. Bracts not spine-tipped. Non-native.



Bull thistle

Cirsium vulgare.
Flowers purple.
Stem spiny-winged.
Involucre 2.5-4 cm.
Bracts spine-tipped.
Non-native.

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