

May Tip of the Month - Purple Invasive Thistles

It is time to tackle your thistles – they are beginning to bloom and their seeds travel far and wide!

They are non-native, unsightly, spread aggressively and many can render land unusable. They also have very annoying spines that can penetrate leather gloves. Now is a great time to get them out – before they bloom.

Thistles can be managed with mowing or weed-whacking, but you may need mow again later in the season because many can re-sprout from the root. They can be left as mulch, unless the blossoms have begun to open, at which point they should be bagged and disposed of in garbage.

Here are some photos of seedlings and adults of four of our most prevalent purple invasive thistles:



Italian Thistle



Carduus pycnocephalus



Bullthistle



Cirsium vulgare



Milk Thistle



Silybum marianum



Artichoke Thistle



Cynara cardunculus