Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe ssp. Micranthos*)

**NATIVE TO:** Eurasia

**CURRENT DISTRIBUTION IN ILLINOIS:** Widely common and distributed throughout the state.

**IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS:** Biennial or short lived perennial up to 4 ft tall. Pale green to grayish green compound leaves up to 6 in on lower portions of the plant. Leaflets narrow with irregular lobes and translucent spots. Numerous thistle-like ¾ in flowers along stem tips ranging from pinkish to lavender purple. Black margins of the flowers bract give the flowerhead a ‘spotted’ look. Flowers from June to September.

**IMPORTANCE:** Produces allelochemicals (catechins) that harms neighboring plant roots. The chemical remains in the soil, making restoration difficult.

**HABITAT:** Pastures and rangeland, establishes readily on disturbed ground.

**MANAGEMENT:** Mowing and using other forms of tillage, preferable before seeds are produced, can control populations, but seeds remain viable for 5-8 yrs in the soil.