CLASS "A" NOXIOUS WEED: *Eradication (killing the root) required*

Milk thistle *(Silybum marianum)*

- Distinctively patterned green and white leaves
- Leaves can be over 20" long and 10" wide
- Purple flowers, large and rounded
- Can grow to a height of 6 feet
- Reproduces by seed
- **Toxic to livestock**
- Flower heads have **razor sharp** spines

CONTROL METHOD	TIMING AND NOTES (Regardless of control method chosen, multiple treatments may be needed each year)
Hand-pulling/ digging	Easier before soil dries out. **Wear thick leather gloves!** Remove entire plant, including roots. If flower heads are present, and in the way, you may remove them with hand cutters or loppers first. Be sure to remove roots.
Mowing	Not acceptable—**Do not mow!**
Black plastic	Leave in place for several years. Replace if stiff spines poke through.
Tilling	Till at least three inches deep. May need tilling several times per year.
Bark mulch	Class "A" weeds require eradication; mulch alone will not eradicate, and will only reduce germination. Mulch should be 3–4 inches thick.
Herbicide (active ingredient)	**Timing is crucial!** Herbicide treatments must occur before plants bloom. Always read and follow the herbicide label. If plants are flowering, it is too late to apply herbicide. If the weeds have produced seed, bag plants and place in garbage, not compost.
Aminopyralid combinations	Apply in spring or early summer to rosettes or bolting plants. *Aminopyralid* may affect some grasses and harm trees. Read label for further details. Adding *glyphosate* in early spring applications will increase control. *Glyphosate* **will kill grass.** Fall treatments to seedlings and rosettes are also effective.
Triclopyr combinations	Apply in spring to rosettes. Fall treatments to seedlings and rosettes are also effective.

For more information, contact us at 564.397.6140 or weed.board@clark.wa.gov.



First year plant



Second year plant grows upright



Close-up of flowers



Plant has gone to seed

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

PUBLIC WORKS
NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office
564.397.2322 / 711 or 800.833.6388 / ADA@clark.wa.gov