

F. Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*)

Key Characteristics:

Common burdock is a member of the Sunflower family. It is an introduced biennial which reproduces by seed in its second year. In the first year of growth the plant forms a rosette; the second year the plant bolts and flowers. Burdock can grow up to 6 feet tall, has enormous leaves and prickly burs. The flowers are purple and white on numerous heads. Burdock grows along roadsides, ditch banks, and in neglected areas.

Locations:

This plant is a very serious threat to sheep as the burs can significantly damage the quality of their wool. Common burdock is found throughout Pitkin County.

Biological control:

None known at this time.

Cultural control:

Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbances and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production and maintaining healthy native plant communities.

Mechanical control:

Burdock will not stand repeated cultivation, cutting, digging or pulling. Mechanical control is laborious but effective; properly bag and dispose of mature burs.

Chemical control:

There are effective herbicide options for Common Burdock control. Contact the Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about products, rates, and equipment calibration.

