

# Controlling Canada Thistle

to help ensure the health and sustainability of your pastures.



Canada thistle is considered the most problematic pasture weed in the Prairies.

up to **2:1** forage yield loss.<sup>1</sup>



This perennial invasive species spreads fast and is difficult to control.

Extensive root system is primary method of reproduction.



**6-18 ft**

depth of roots

up to **20 ft**

lateral growth<sup>2</sup>

Canada thistle also reproduces by seeds.

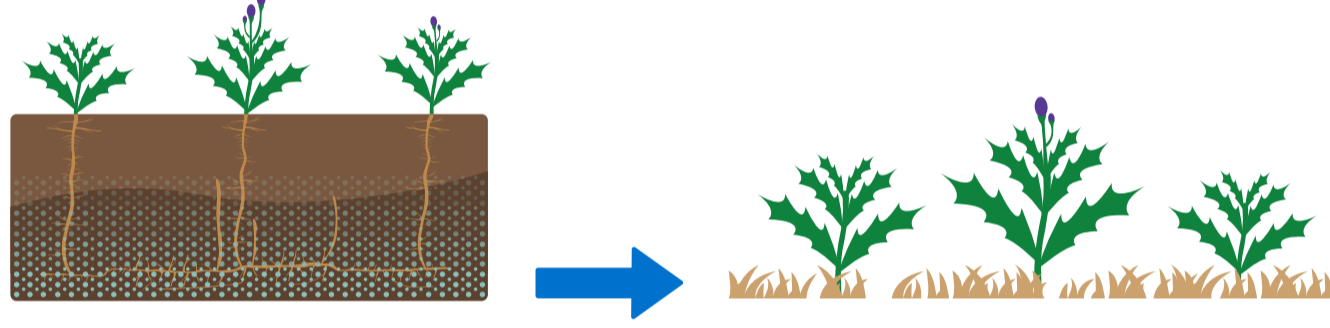


1 plant = up to **5k seeds**<sup>2</sup>



Can germinate after only **10 days**<sup>2</sup>

Canada thistle can be especially damaging to grasslands in drought years.



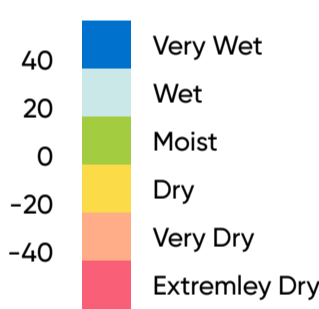
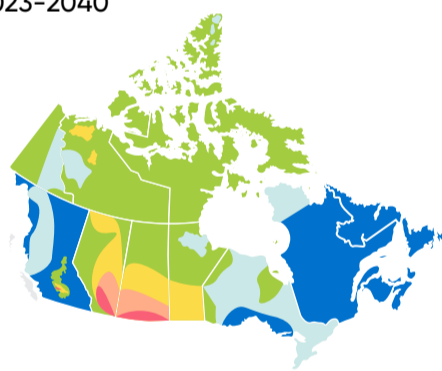
Canada thistle's extensive root system robs moisture and nutrients from the soil.

Making it difficult for more palatable grasses and forage to compete.

And droughts are only expected to increase in frequency in the Southern Prairies<sup>3</sup>.

Climate Moisture Index (CMI)<sup>4</sup>

2023-2040



Ranchers are encouraged to proactively implement an integrated weed management plan that includes:

## High-intensity-low-frequency (HILF) grazing



Cattle eat the young shoots of Canada thistle in the spring, as part of their forage supply.

Studies show HILF grazing can virtually eliminate Canada thistle over 2-to-3-year span.

However HILF grazing is not recommended on the same pasture year over year to avoid breakdown of soil health and forage production.

## Fertilization



Enhancing plant competition through fertilization can help crowd out Canada thistle and other invasive weed species.

## Targeted Herbicide Applications



Herbicides can be used to treat widespread infestations as well as smaller, specific areas of pastureland.

Apply herbicides after the majority of Canada thistle has emerged (typically throughout July).

Corteva Agriscience™ Range & Pasture herbicides are readily absorbed by leaves and roots, translocating through the plant to provide effective control.



Effective. Reliable. Sustainable Pasture Management Solutions.

Make a positive change to the health and productivity of your permanent grass pastures by making Corteva Agriscience™ Range & Pasture herbicides part of your integrated pasture management plan.

**Grazon™ XC**  
HERBICIDE

**Reclaim™ II**  
HERBICIDE

**Restore™ II**  
HERBICIDE

Learn more about our solutions at [RangeAndPasture.corteva.ca](https://RangeAndPasture.corteva.ca)

<sup>1</sup>Every 1 lb/acre of Canada thistle biomass can cause the loss of 2 lbs/acre of forage.

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.beefresearch.ca/files/pdf/Canada\\_thistle\\_manual.pdf](https://www.beefresearch.ca/files/pdf/Canada_thistle_manual.pdf)

<sup>3</sup><https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/crops-and-irrigation/weeds/canada-thistle>

<sup>4</sup><https://climatedata.ca/case-study/drought-and-agriculture/>

<sup>5</sup>[www.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/forestchange](http://www.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/forestchange)