

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
<b>Social</b>			
1. Restrict human access?	“An erect bushy annual or biennial herb, commonly 40 to 80 cm high. Flower heads...surrounded by numerous bracts each ending in a rigid, sharp, white or yellowish spine 1.5. to 3 cm long and at the base of which are 2 to 6 shorter spines.” It is found in medium to large populations in lowland grassland & grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest & woodland. The spiny nature of the plant may hinder individual access.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	<b>ML</b>
2. Reduce tourism?	The spiny nature of the plant may restrict some recreational activities.		<b>MH</b>
3. Injurious to people?	“...once the heads are formed, their spines injure grazing animals.” Potential to injure humans. Spiny heads present for much of the year.	P & C (2001)	<b>MH</b>
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Large populations may create a negative visual impact.		<b>ML</b>
<b>Abiotic</b>			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
7. Increase soil erosion?	“...is most commonly confined to roadsides, channel banks and neglected areas.” Not likely to increase soil erosion.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
8. Reduce biomass?	“...is most commonly confined to roadsides, channel banks and neglected areas.” Biomass may increase in those areas where it is commonly found.		<b>L</b>
9. Change fire regime?	Plants die in autumn. However, there is no information regarding what hard matter is left that may contribute to fire. Assume little change.		<b>L</b>
<b>Community Habitat</b>			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Plains grassy woodland (E); CMA=North Central; Bioreg=Victorian Volcanic Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. In Victoria, it is present in medium to large populations. Potential to displace species in lower stratum. Occurs in open, unshaded situations. Overstorey cover may restrict population density.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992) P & C (2001)	<b>MH</b>
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Box Ironbark forest (D); CMA=North Central; Bioreg=Goldfields; VH CLIMATE potential. Impact as in 10(a) above.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992) P & C (2001)	<b>MH</b>
(c) low value EVC	EVC=Lowland forest (LC); CMA=Corangamite; Bioreg=Victorian Volcanic Plain; H CLIMATE potential. Impact similar to 10(a) above, however, CLIMATE distribution potential is HIGH only.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992) P & C (2001)	<b>ML</b>
11. Impact on structure?	“It is confined to roadsides, channel banks and neglected areas.” Occurs in open, unshaded situations. In Victoria, it is present in medium to large populations. In natural ecosystems likely to have a minor effect on species in the lower stratum.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	<b>ML</b>
12. Effect on threatened flora?			

Scientific Name: *Centaurea calcitrapa*

Common name: Star thistle

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<b>Fauna</b>			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?			
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	"...is most commonly confined to roadsides, channel banks and neglected areas." Minimal impact on fauna species.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
15. Benefits fauna?	No known benefits.		<b>H</b>
16. Injurious to fauna?	"...once the heads are formed, their spines injure grazing animals." Potential to injure fauna species where they co-occur.	P & C (2001)	<b>ML</b>
<b>Pest Animal</b>			
17. Food source to pests?	Not known as a food source to pests.		<b>L</b>
18. Provides harbor?	"The spines also make clumps of the plant an effective harbour for rabbits."	P & C (2001)	<b>MH</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>			
19. Impact yield?	"It occurs but is not important ...in the Victorian Wimmera and southern Mallee. Star thistle competes with crops and pastures." Level of competition not documented; assume minimal	P & C (2001)	<b>ML</b>
20. Impact quality?	"Seeds...are spread to some extent by contaminating agricultural produce." Minor impact on quality.	P & C (2001)	<b>ML</b>
21. Affect land value?	"It occurs but is not important ...in the Victorian Wimmera and southern Mallee." Unlikely to affect land value.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
22. Change land use?	"It occurs but is not important ...in the Victorian Wimmera and southern Mallee." Not a serious weed of agriculture. Change in land use not required.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not known to affect harvest costs.		<b>L</b>
24. Disease host/vector?	None evident.		<b>L</b>