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Bug of the Month Canada Thistle Gall Fly



Canada thistle is one of the most widespread noxious weeds in Colorado. It is a perennial, difficult to control, and can produce dense spiny stands of plants 3-4 feet tall.

Canada thistle stem gall flies lay eggs in the developing stems in mid-spring. Although they don't kill the plant, the developing larvae produce swellings (galls) on the stems and these galls take energy and nutrients from the plant.

The larvae spend the winter within these galls where they pupate and emerge as adults in the spring. Galls come in many sizes and shapes and may have one to many larvae living within.



Galls are collected in the fall, stored at the Insectary, and in the spring adults emerge and are rounded up and shipped to destinations around the state.

Learn more about the Colorado Department of Agriculture's [Pest Control Program](#).