

## Thistle Rosette Identification - Biennials (rosette first year and flowering plant the second year).

### Nonnative Invasive Thistles



**Bull Thistle Rosette**

**Rosette Shape** - more round.

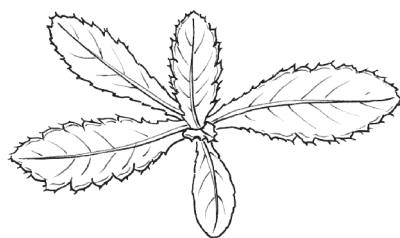
**Leaves in general** - rough, bumpy appearance giving it a duller color and prominent veins.

**Rosette Leaves Above:**

1. Hairs above - sandpapery texture from small hairs running in one direction.
2. Some long downy hairs along midrib and leaf.

**Rosette Leaves Below:**

1. Many hairs in all directions (tomentose, cobwebby).
2. Appears white - from hairs.
3. Prominently raised mid-rib.



**Musk Thistle Rosette**

**Rosette Shape** - more round.

**Leaves in general** - smooth and succulent looking especially when young.

**Rosette Leaves Above:**

1. **No hairs** on leaves, smooth appearance.
2. Whitish margins.
3. Light green mid-rib.

**Rosette Leaves Below:**

1. **No hairs** - lighter green than above.



### Native Thistles



**Elk Thistle Rosette**

**Rosette Shape** - more round.

**Leaves in general** - appear light green and delicate.

**Rosette Leaves Above:**

1. Hairs - Many long whitish, golden hairs.
2. Long fine spines at leaf margins.

**Rosette Leaves Below:**

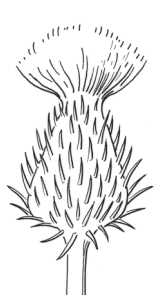
1. Sometimes small flat hairs on underside and appears white.





## Thistle Mature Plant Identification - Biennials (rosette first year and flowering plant the second year).

### Nonnative Invasive Thistles



**Bull Thistle**

**Flower Color** - pink to purple

**Flower Shape** -  
vase-shaped



**Stems** - spiny wings



**Musk Thistle**

**Flower Color** - deep pink to purple

**Flower Shape** -  
disk-shaped  
and typically nods at end  
of bent naked stem.



**Lower Stems** - spiny wings  
**Upper Stems** - naked



### Native Thistles



**Anderson's Thistle**

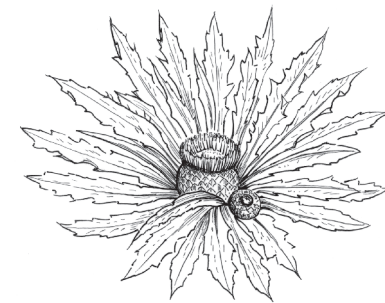
**Flower Color** - rose red to  
redish purple

**Flower Shape** -  
cylinder-shaped



**Stems** - no spines

In general more delicate looking  
with fewer flowers per stem.



**Elk Thistle**

**Flower Color** - cream, white to  
pale lavender

**Stemless Thistle**

