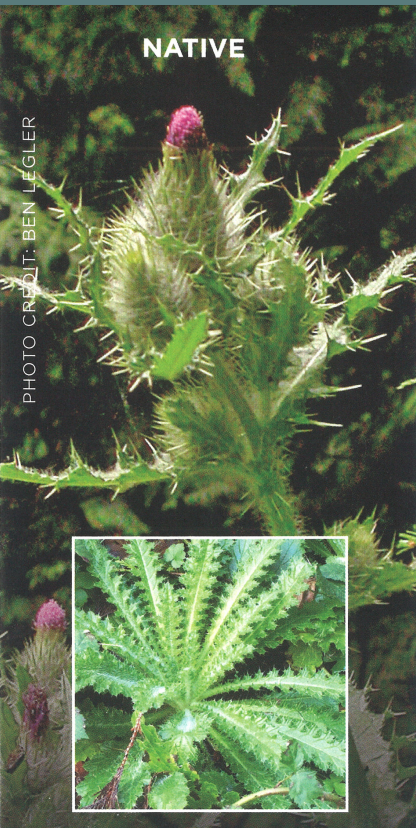


NATIVE



NON-NATIVE



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PRESERVATION  
TRUST

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THISTLE  
TAKE JUST A  
MINUTE OF  
YOUR TIME

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When we see thistles growing on our properties, a common response is to yank it out. But do you know that not all thistles growing in the islands are non-native, noxious weeds? In our county, the Short-styled thistle (front, on left) *Cirsium brevistylum*, is a native plant, often confused with the non-native, noxious bull thistle (*C. vulgare*). Bull and Canada thistle (*C. arvense*, another noxious weed), displace native plants and can reduce crop yields. It's a good idea to keep these plants under control. However, keeping native thistle around is a good thing for wildlife. Thistles can provide important late-season nectar sources for pollinators, and the seed and pappus (or thistle "down") provides food and nesting material for songbirds. So, before you pull, mow, or spray that thistle, check to make sure you have the right species.

For help in native thistle identification or suggestions for non-native thistle control, contact either:

Dean Dougherty at [DEAND@SJPT.ORG](mailto:DEAND@SJPT.ORG), 376-7133

or Kathleen Foley at [KATHLEENF@SJPT.ORG](mailto:KATHLEENF@SJPT.ORG), 378-2461

We will be happy to assist you.

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