

Pest Plants

of the Wellington Region

Saffron thistle

Carthamus lanatus

How do I identify saffron thistle?

Annual thistle that can grow up to **1 metre** tall

Leaves: Light to dark green **arching leaves** which are sharply serrated and pointed

Flowers: May be dull or **bright yellow** and flower at the end of branches. These later turn into small seeds with hairs attached

Stems: Woody upright stem with many branches

Roots: Shallow taproot

Where found: Pastoral land near where feed has been fed out or near fowl houses

What's the problem?

- Saffron thistle is generally unpalatable to livestock and therefore reduces available grazing area
- It is spread many ways including water, wind, contaminated soil and feed, machinery, animals and people

What do I do?

- If you suspect you have saffron thistle or have seen it somewhere in the Wellington region, please contact us and we'll come and have a look
- If it is saffron thistle, we will control it for free and record the sites location for future work

Fact:

Saffron thistle gets its name from its yellow tufty seedheads that are the same colour as saffron

