

Russian Thistle



**GROW & GIVE
WEEDS**

***Salsola* spp., also known as a tumbleweed.**



Russian thistle seedling.

Photo: Phil Westra, Colorado State University,
Bugwood.org.

Russian thistle is a weedy annual frequently found in dry, disturbed areas. As it matures, Russian thistle becomes highly branched and assumes a bush-like shape. Like kochia, Russian thistle is known as a tumbleweed, as it often snaps at the base and spreads seeds as the plant tumbles around. In the home garden and landscape, Russian thistle can be controlled mechanically by mowing plants before seed production. Avoid disturbing the soil, as this will create favorable conditions for germination of Russian thistle seeds already in the seed bank. Additionally, Russian thistle will have a difficult time competing in well-managed, irrigated soils. Pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides can be used if necessary and if timed correctly.



Immature Russian thistle.

Photo: Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte,
Bugwood.org.



Russian thistle flowers.

Photo: Forest and Kim Starr, Starr
Environmental, Bugwood.org.

For more information on Growing and Giving, go to growandgivecolorado.org