Bull thistle is a coarse, prickly biennial or a short-lived perennial. It may be distinguished from Canada thistle by the taproot. The leaves appear in a rosette during the first year. A flowering stem develops the second year. Bull thistle is found in overgrazed pastures, particularly in heavy, moist soils.

Control: Use 1 to 1 1/2 pounds 2,4-D ester per acre in the rosette to early-bud stage of growth. Add a spreader-sticker.

By Martin Zimmerman, Sherman County Extension Agent, Oregon State University