

CALIFORNIAN THISTLE

Cirsium arvense

Asteraceae



Galled Californian thistle

Five agents have been released to attack Californian thistle. Despite being released widely throughout the country the Californian thistle flea beetle (*Altica carduorum*) did not establish, the Californian thistle leaf beetle (*Lema cyanella*) remains rare and the Californian thistle gall fly (*Urophora cardui*) is limited by stock grazing. More recently the green thistle beetle (*Cassida rubiginosa*) and Californian thistle stem miner (*Ceratopion onopordi*) have been released. Establishment success of the stem miner is unknown but the green thistle beetle is establishing well and showing promise against a range of thistles. Pathogens also commonly attack this thistle.

