

	Canada thistle	Musk thistle	Plumeless thistle	Bull thistle	European marsh thistle
Leaves	Irregularly lobed. Tips have small spines.	Moderately lobed with white midrib.	Heavily lobed.	Deeply lobed with distinct spines on leaf edge.	Heavily lobed with dark edges.
Hair on Leaves	None.	None.	Bottom of leaf and petiole hairy.	Coarse hair on top of leaf, soft hair on bottom of leaf.	Sticky hairs.
Stems	Not spiny.	No spines on upper stem below flower.	Spiny.	Spiny, appears winged.	Appears winged.
Flowers	Fingertip size. Not spiny. Bracts.	1-2". Stiff bracts.	Fingertip or slightly larger. Prominent bracts.	1-2". Teardrop shaped.	0.75". Not spiny. Purple tipped bracts.