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Scotch thistle (O. acanthium L. # ONRAC), a member of the Compositae and native of Europe and eastern Asia, occurs in waste places and has become sparingly naturalized over much of the U.S. It is a massive, branching, intensely spiny biennial growing mostly 3 to 20 dm tall, with broadly winged stems. Plants often form stands dense enough to prevent livestock movement, but even moderate infestations can dramatically restrict recreational use along many Western rivers. The photograph was submitted by Dr. Timothy W. Miller, Mt. Vernon Research and Extension Unit, Washington State University, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-9788.

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