

# Burdock (*Arctium minus*)



*Leaves have a hairy underside*



*Seed heads in prickly bur of hooked spines*

Burdock is a biennial thistle with numerous white or purple flower heads scattered along the stems. It grows on roadsides, or ditch banks and waste areas as well as in poor pasture. Burdock can be a serious pest in sheep farms as the burs damage the wool and can irritate or injure animal skin, mouth or eyes.

Burdock forms a rosette in its first year of growth, producing a stout grooved stem in the second year, 0.5-2.0 m tall. The leaves are dark green and alternate with a hairy underside. The seed heads are enclosed in a prickly bur of hooked spines. Seed is spread by the burs attaching to animal fur or human clothing.

Plants may be grubbed out or sprayed with herbicide. Mowing of the plants before flowering occurs may also reduce the number of burs produced.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**