

Plant Biology and Weed Identification

National Railroad
Contractors Association



Biennials

- ◉ Live for two growing seasons.
- ◉ Seeds germinate in spring, summer, or fall of first year.
- ◉ Plants over winter as basal rosette with storage root.
- ◉ After exposure to cold, plants flower and produce seeds in summer of second year.
- ◉ Die in the fall.



Rosette



Burdock Biennial Taproot

Common Mullein Biennial



Evening primrose

Biennial taproot



Virginia Tech



Prickly lettuce Annual or Biennial



Poison Hemlock

Biennial Taproot



Teasel

Biennial



Bull thistle - Biennial



Tap-rooted

Flower head bracts
tipped with thorns

leaves end in long,
sharp spines

1st year basal rosettes



Bull thistle



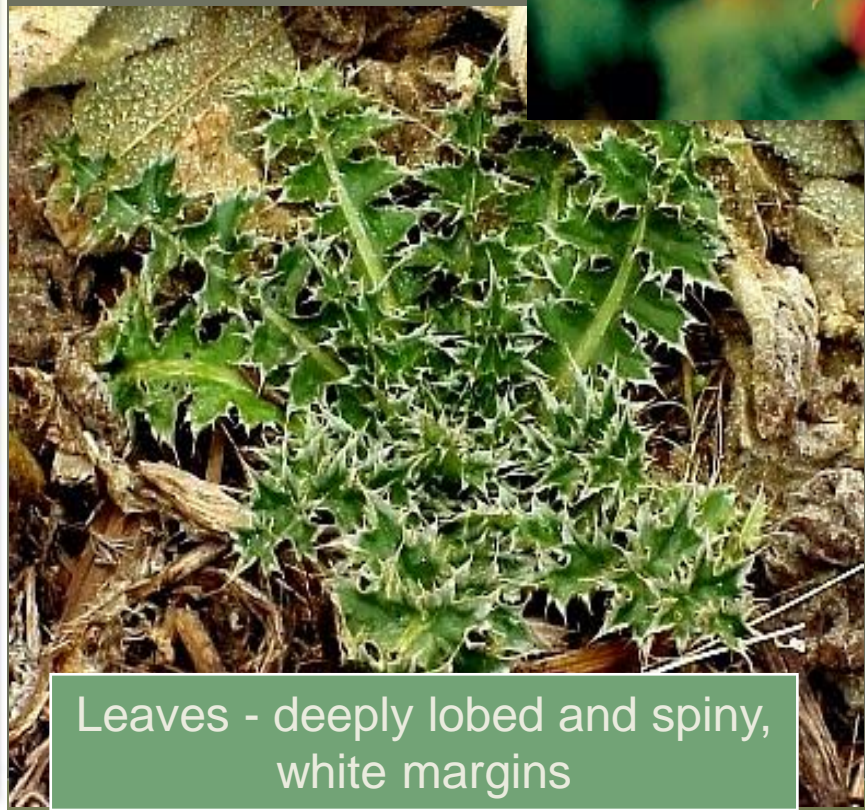
Musk or Nodding thistle

Biennial – Taproot



Large purple flowers
droop down or "nod"

Flowerhead end in a
strong, sharp spiny tip



Leaves - deeply lobed and spiny,
white margins

Stems - spiny and winged
except below the flower
head

Wild Carrot Biennial

2nd year – white flower

1st year basal rosette

