

## Thought Lab 3.3: Super Competitor: Knapweed

**Purpose:** Assessing the environmental impact of an introduced species in established ecosystems.

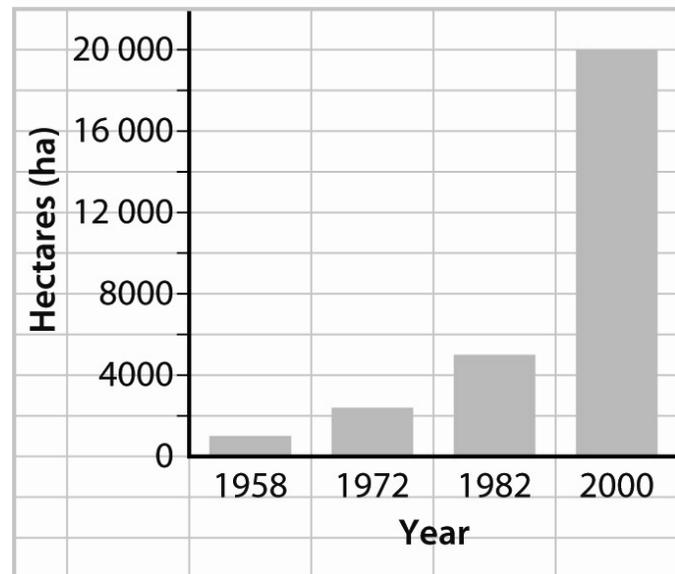
### Procedure

Investigate the biology of spotted knapweed. Specifically, find out how it reproduces, what animals eat it, how it was introduced into North America, and how it is spread.

### Analysis

1. Study the graph shown.
  - a) Describe what has happened to the population of spotted knapweed since its arrival in British Columbia.

**Hectares of spotted knapweed in British Columbia, 1958–2000**



<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	<b>Thought Lab 3.3: Super Competitor: Knapweed (cont'd)</b>	<b>BLM 3.3.6</b>
HANDOUT		

- b) Predict the number of hectares that will be covered by spotted knapweed in 2020. Explain your prediction.
2. Explain why some introduced species can become so invasive and damaging to native species and ecosystems.
3. Why is spotted knapweed not a pest in its native habitat in Europe?

<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	<b>Thought Lab 3.3: Super Competitor: Knapweed (cont'd)</b>	<b>BLM 3.3.6</b>
HANDOUT		

4. a) Populations of spotted knapweed are present in Alberta. How could spotted knapweed be spread throughout the province?

b) Predict how this might affect:

- i) farming and ranching                      ii) native ecosystems