

THE ENEMY: Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*)

STRATEGY: This is a native plant that inhabits all states in the U.S. except Alaska and Hawaii. It is an aromatic perennial with leaves very similar in shape to those of stinging nettle. It is occasionally grown as a crop which is sold for tea or for stuffing cat toys. Note the prominent square stem typical of the mint family. The leaves are oval shaped with serrated edges and palmated with prominent mid-veins. The plant grows from a tap-root which gives it the stability to grow anywhere but desires moist areas.

Attack: It is a great attractant for bees as well as butterflies. Small birds such as finches are attracted to the plant, which helps disseminate the seeds and assist in its invasion to adjacent properties. The plant seldom becomes a weed but once established it can take over an area. Most animals will not eat the plants (except cats) thus it spreads quite quickly. Some people have known to plant it away from their gardens just to keep the felines from the gardens.

DEFENSE: Hand pulling of this weed is quite easy as it is generally found near moist soils. Clipping the seeds off the plant once the seeds have formed after flowering will keep it from spreading away from desired sites. If in a garden or landscape use a combination of Roundup and 2,4-D. In a pasture or range situation utilizing products such as Milestone, Opensight, or Banvel/Clarity. Remember if you think you have this plant you don't have to call me just GRAB the neighbor's cat and see if he will not leave the area.. oh and if you want to take a nap with the cat grind up some of the leaves to make a summer tea, it said to be a relaxant.