

*Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. (Asteraceae)

**General shape:** Obovate, curved.

**Normal size:**

2.5-3.0 mm L x 0.8-1.0 mm W

**Color:** Brown with a yellow collar, some longitudinal yellow lines.

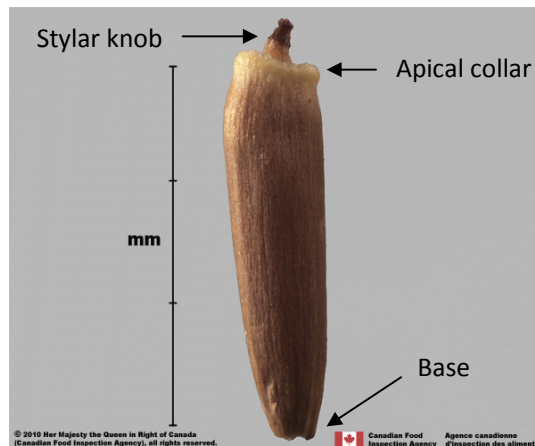
**Texture:** Dullish, fairly smooth surface.

**Distinguishing features:** Small stylar knob. Apical collar lighter in colour than the rest of the achene. Pappus is composed of long, plumose bristles but is readily detached. Narrow, truncated base.

**Embryo:** Embryo with well-developed cotyledons and a broad stalk having a truncate top, no endosperm.



*Cirsium arvense* achenes



*Cirsium arvense* achene

Authored by Susan Putz  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canada

Images by Jo Jones