

COMMON TEASEL INFO SHEET

Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), also known as Wild Teasel, was introduced to North America from Europe during the 1800s for textile processing (the plant's dried flower heads were used to tease wool). Growing up to 8 feet tall, these plants are aggressive competitors that can produce thousands of seeds and form dense patches. These characteristics make Teasel a successful invader that can quickly crowd out native plants.



You CAN Remove Common Teasel from Your Land

STEP 1. IDENTIFY



This biennial (or occasionally short-lived perennial) plant features prickly stems with a unique spiny, cone-shaped flower head. The first year rosette leaves are wrinkled and oval shaped. During the second year, the plants produce a tall stalk supporting simple, opposite leaves with conspicuous veins. Growing up to 10 inches long, some leaves will clasp the stem, holding water in a depression where the leaf attaches to the stem.

Teasel reproduces by seed, with most seeds germinating near the parent plant, though occasionally seeds are dispersed by birds and waterways. A single plant can produce as many as 2,000 seeds! This invasive species grows best in open, sunny areas, and is often found along roadsides, fields, and other disturbed areas.



STEP 2. REMOVE

Small patches (less than 100 plants) can be controlled by removing plants before the seeds mature. First year rosettes can be removed with a shovel, making sure to remove as much of the root as possible to prevent resprouting. Second year growth can be removed by slicing the taproot at least two inches below ground with a sharp shovel or pulling the entire taproot.

Do not compost Teasel plants. Leave the stems to dry out completely at the site being careful not to spread the flowers/seeds. Alternatively, you may place plant material in black plastic bags and leave in direct sun for a week.

Large patches (over 100 plants) may be controlled by mowing if done long before the seeds mature (generally in early fall). Since mowed Teasel stalks will **resprout**, fields must be mowed several times during the growing season to prevent flowering regrowth.



STEP 3. MONITOR

Be vigilant. Inspect the infestation site regularly and remove any new Teasel growth, including roots, with a shovel.

For more information:

Please give us a call at 802-862-4150 or visit www.lclt.org



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