Impacts of teasels on your community

Cutleaf and common teasels are functionally biennial plants forming rosettes in the first year then flowering and producing seed in the second year. They prefer sunny areas and are tolerant of wet to dry soils. They escaped cultivation and spread throughout the United States. Teasels can be found growing along streams and roadside ditches in southern Minnesota. Teasels resemble thistles and form large, dense stands that choke out native vegetation. This reduces forage, wildlife habitat, and ecosystem diversity.

Teasel management

Cutleaf and common teasels are prohibited noxious weeds on the eradicate list, which means that all of the above and below ground parts of the plant must be destroyed, as required by law. Additionally, no transportation, propagation, or sale of these plants is allowed.

- Hand pulling and digging are effective options for smaller infestations. The plant develops a large taproot, which can be difficult but necessary to remove.
- Frequent mowing throughout the growing season will deplete energy in the taproot and reduce stands over time. Mowing is not recommended after the plant flowers, as mowing spreads mature seeds.
- Seasonal herbicide application can greatly reduce populations over time. Seeds can stay viable in the soil for 3-5 years and continuous monitoring should occur.

What to do if you suspect you found cutleaf or common teasel

To report teasel infestations, please do the following.

- Note the exact location with address or GPS coordinates.
- If it is possible, take digital photos of the whole plant, rosettes, flowers, and seed stalks that can be emailed for identification.
- Infestations can be reported to one of two places:
  1. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) by email at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us, or voicemail 1-888-545-6684.
  2. Directly to EDDMapS through the Great Lakes Early Detection Network app on a smartphone or tablet.

To learn more about the MDA’s Noxious and Invasive Weed Program and the Noxious Weed Law and Lists, please visit: www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol
**CUTLEAF TEASEL**

Cutleaf teasel (Dipsacus laciniatus) is native to Europe and was introduced to the United States in the 1700s. Like its close relative common teasel, it was used in the textile industry to raise the nap on woolen cloth and as an ornamental in gardens and floral arrangements.

Cutleaf teasel has a strong, deep taproot and prickly stem and leaves. Leaves are long, wide, lobed, and meet at the stem to form a cup that holds water. The lobed leaves have a strong white mid-vein. Flowers are produced on stalk that can grow up to 6.5 feet tall. They are distinctive for their bristly, egg shape and white color. Cutleaf teasel flowers from June to October. Bracts below the flower are short and do not extend the entire length of the seed head.

**COMMON TEASEL**

Common teasel (Dipsacus fullonum) is native to Europe and was introduced to the United States in the 1700s, like its close relative cutleaf teasel.

Common teasel has a strong, deep taproot and prickly stem and leaves. Leaves are long and narrow with a smooth margin, and meet at the stem to form a cup that holds water. The leaves have a strong white mid-vein. Flowers are produced on stalk that can grow up to 6.5 feet tall. They are distinctive for their bristly, egg shape and purple color. Common teasel flowers from June to October. Bracts below the flower can extend the entire length of the seed head.