

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



ALIEN INVADERS

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TEASELS

Dipsacus fullonum & *D. laciniatus*

BASIC ID

This aggressive monocarpic perennial grows in a basal rosette then bolts into a prickly flower stalk. Leaves are opposite, prickly and form a cup around the stem. Common teasel (*D. fullonum*) has long and entire leaves. Cut-leaved teasel (*D. laciniatus*) has sharply lobed leaves. Hundreds of small flowers cluster around the dense oval-shaped heads. It blooms mid-summer and the flowers are purple on common teasel and white on cut-leaved teasel.

FACTS

Native to Europe, Asia, and Africa, teasels have spread rapidly in the last 30 years, most notably along roads and disturbed areas. It grows in wet to dry, open habitats, and invades prairies, savannas, and sedge meadows. Each plant is able to produce over 2,000 seeds, and have an 80% germination rate.

MANAGEMENT

- Hand-pull or dig removing entire taproot.
- Mow to prevent flowering and seed development.
- Prescribed burns combined with other control.
- Apply herbicide (foliar).

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Photos: Elizabeth J. Czarapata
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