



# INVASIVE PLANTS OF OHIO

Fact Sheet 15

Common & Cut-leaved Teasels

*Dipsacus fullonum*, *D. laciniatus*

## COMMON TEASEL



## DESCRIPTION:

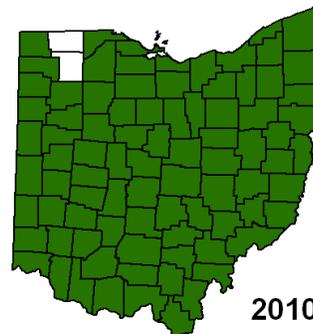
These teasel species are biennials or short-lived perennials that are rosettes for a minimum of one year, then develop a tall flowering stalk, set seed, and die. During the rosette stage, teasels develop a large taproot. The flowering plant can attain a height of 7 feet. Both species have flowers packed in a dense oval-shaped inflorescence at the top of a spiny stem. Common teasel has pink or purple flowers and undivided leaves. Cut-leaved teasel has deeply lobed leaves and white flowers. A single teasel plant can produce approximately 3,000 seeds.

Both teasels are natives of Eurasia and northern Africa. They were cultivated by wool manufacturers; the dried flower heads were placed on spindles and used to raise the nap, or tease the cloth. Toys were made from the flower heads. It also may have been imported for ornamental purposes. The dried flower heads are often used in flower arrangements.

## HABITAT:

Teasels thrive in open disturbed areas, such as roadsides and old fields. They can also invade prairies, meadows, grasslands, and moist forest openings. Common teasel is found throughout Ohio while cut-leaved teasel is not as widespread yet; however, cut-leaf teasel is rapidly spreading to new regions and will likely occur throughout the state.

## COMMON TEASEL



2010

### CUT-LEAVED TEASEL



### INVASIVE CHARACTERISTICS:

Teasels produce massive amounts of seed that can remain viable in the soil for several years.

### CONTROL:

Mechanical: Individual rosettes can be removed using a digging tool; removal of the entire root is essential to eliminate re-sprouting. The stalks of flowering plants can be cut just before flowering, however secondary stalks may develop. The plant usually will not bloom again, but dies at the end of the growing season. Cut flowering stalks should be removed from the area if the flowers have opened because seeds can mature on the stem even after cutting.

Late spring burns can be useful in controlling teasel before it becomes dense. Burning should be employed with other methods to insure maximum control. Manual removal is enhanced by burning the site in the spring which makes the basal rosettes more visible in the blackened soil.

Chemical: Foliar application of systemic herbicides, such as Roundup, Glypro, AquaNeat, or Transline, should be applied to the rosette stage or well before bolting occurs. Escort, Milestone, and Tordon have residual control and are very effective in extensive populations. The rosettes of teasel remain green late into the fall, after most other plants have become dormant. Herbicide application at this time or in early spring reduces the risk of harming non-target species and can be very effective in controlling large populations.

### Biological:

No biological control methods are currently available for either teasel species.

### CUT-LEAVED TEASEL



2010

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### Credits and additional information:

Plant Conservation Alliance-Alien Plant Working Group  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, [www.ohiodnr.gov](http://www.ohiodnr.gov)  
The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Chapter  
Wisconsin DNR, <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>  
OIPC website, [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)

**Note: Maps of species' ranges are based on records as of 2010.**