

Cut-leaf Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*)

Identification:

Cut-leaf Teasel is a perennial, biennial plant that grows as a basal rosette until sending up a flowering stalk that can reach 6 to 7 ft. Opposite, deeply lobed leaves join at the stem that forms a cup around the prickly stem. The small, white flowers densely cover oval flower heads and are present from July to September. Each flower blooms for only one day and then the plant dies after it flowers. Spiny bracts are located on the ends of flower stems. A single plant can produce up to 2,000 seeds that remain viable in the soil for two years. After flowering, the stems become woody and persist through the following winter. The root system consists of a thick taproot and fibrous secondary roots.



Management Techniques:

Individual rosettes can be removed using a dandelion digger; removal of the entire root is essential to eliminate re-sprouting. Flowering stalks may be cut down once the plant has started to flower, but if it is cut too early then plants may send up new flowering stalks. The seeds will continue to develop and mature even after cutting so to prevent seed dispersal the flowers should be disposed of properly.

Look-a-Likes:

There are two native species that can resemble Cut-leaf Teasel, *Eryngium leavenworthii* and Leavenworth's eryngo. Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) is very similar, but it has lavender flowers and does not have lobed leaves.

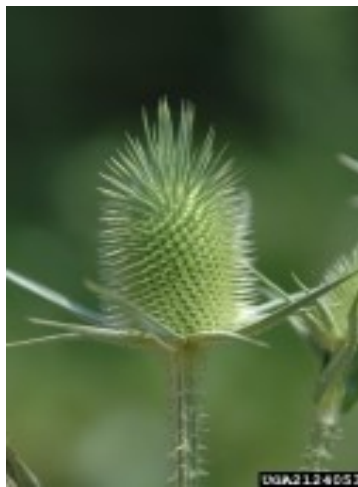
Native Range and Original Introduction:

This plant grows in open, sunny habitats preferring roadsides and other disturbed areas, although it can sometimes be found in high-quality areas such as prairies, savannas, seeps, and sedge meadows. Native to Europe and temperate Asia, it was introduced in the 1700s to the U.S. and now can be found in the Northern states from Massachusetts to Colorado, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. It was likely introduced to the U.S. for its role in producing wool and as an ornamental. It is frequently dried out and used in flower arrangements. It can often be found in or around cemeteries. Being a prolific seed producer has made this plant a successful invader.

Leaves



Immature Flower



Mature Flower

