



© Steve Dewey, UT State University, Bugwood

Common teasel, *Dipsacus fullonum* L., is a biennial or sometimes short-lived perennial forb. Mature plants can grow up to or over six feet tall and have a taproot. Common teasel has simple lanceolate to oblanceolate basal and stem leaves. Both leaves are conspicuously veined, wrinkled and have rough surface. Leaf margins are crenate. Stems leaves are lined with stiff prickles along the midrib. Stem leaves are opposite, net-veined, stalkless, and clasp the stem. The stem is rigid and also lined with several rows of downward turned prickles.

Flowers are range from white to violet. The flower head is generally egg-shaped, with a square base. The long thin stiff floral bracts at the base of the inflorescence are generally longer than the flower head; these also have prickles. It flowers from April to September. This species reproduces by seed. In a Canadian

study, common teasel resprouted 50% of the time after mechanically removing above ground vegetation. Common teasel can produce more than 2,000 seeds per plant. Plants die after production of seed has occurred. Seeds can stay viable for up to 14 years. Seeds germinate and establish readily, however, seeds don't generally disperse far from the parent plant. The fruits are a four-angled achene, each containing a single seed.

Common teasel is native to Europe where historically it had many uses. Common teasel is spreading rapidly in America. It is common along major travel corridors and previously disturbed areas. It is invasive in moist soils, such as wetlands, fens and riparian corridors. This includes roadsides, swales, irrigation ditches. Upland dry sites are also vulnerable. These include open, sunny habitats such as abandoned fields, pastures, meadows and woodlands.

Restoration of infested and degraded sites is one of the keys to eradicating common teasel. Wetlands are important but very sensitive environments. Methods and techniques used in infested wetlands should follow best management practices, such as those available at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/ag-conservation/noxious-weed-publications>. Preventing seed production is necessary to curtail the spread of this forb. Eradication efforts will need to continue for multiple consecutive seasons until the seed bank is depleted. Once eradication is complete, monitoring will be needed.



© Steve Dewey, UT State University, Bugwood

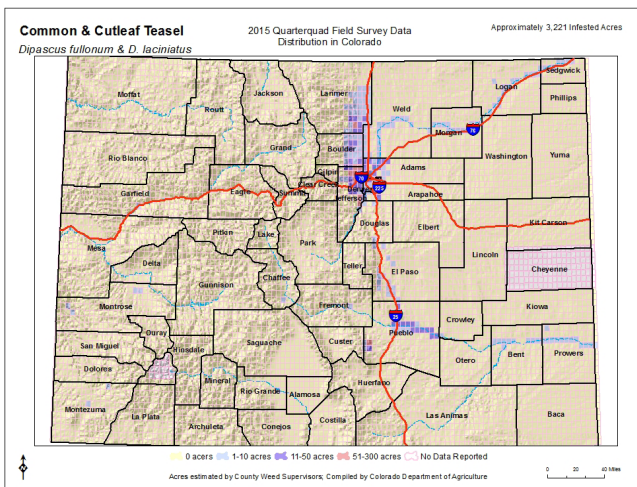


© Chris Evans, IL Wildlife Action Plan



© Wikimedia Commons

## 2015 Quarter Quad Survey



Common teasel is designated as a "List B" species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be eradicated; some populations may be contained or suppressed depending on state regulations. For state regulations described for each county, refer to the most recent Rule, or visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/co-weedcontacts](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/co-weedcontacts) for details.

### Key ID Points

1. Long slender floral bracts extend beyond the top of the flower head.
2. Leaves are crinkled and have prickles.
3. Stems are stiff and have rows of prickles.

Common teasel  
*Dipsacus fullonum* L.

# Integrated Weed Management Recommendations

## Common teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* L.

Effective integrated management means using a variety of eradication methods along with restoration, prevention of seed production and dispersal, and monitoring. Maintain robust healthy native landscapes. Restore degraded sites. Avoid soil disturbance. Prevent seed production in the first and second year. Prevent seed from dispersing, e.g. contaminated equipment. Rest sites until restored. Change land use practices. Use methods appropriate for the site; disturbing wetlands, fens and riparian areas is generally not advised without proper training.



© City of Watsonville

### CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS

Maintain or restore a competitive assemblage of forbs, cool and warm season grasses. Implement whole site restoration of soils, plants and water regimes where stands of common teasel exist. Use locally adapted species that are ecologically appropriate for the site to improve competitiveness (e.g. wetland plants or upland plants). Include annual as well as perennial species. Incorporate soil amendments, soil microbes and mycorrhizal fungi in restoration efforts. Minimize soil compaction and disturbance, especially in wetlands and moist soil. Acquire permits for wetland restoration, if required.



© Steve Dewey, UT State University, Bugwood

### BIOLOGICAL CONTROL METHODS

Common teasel is not palatable to domestic livestock in part because of the abundance of prickles. Properly managed grazing can improve vigor of desired species and indirectly reduce common teasel. There are no biological control agents for common teasel authorized in Colorado that would effectively control common teasel. For more information about biological control agents, visit the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Palisade Insectary website at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/biocontrol>



© Lady Barbaras Garden, Pintrest

### MECHANICAL CONTROL METHODS

Mechanical methods are best for infestations smaller than 0.5 acres; weigh this against other plants present, ecology and site condition. Sever roots below the soil surface during the first year before the plant stores energy, and in the second year before seed production. Mowing, chopping and deadheading stimulates more flower production; these methods require consecutive years of season-long treatments. Flower heads must be collected, bagged, and disposed of or destroyed; seeds will mature and germinate if left on the ground. Fire effects are unknown. Vegetation may not carry fire. Low severity prescribed fires may only kill the above ground vegetation, leaving roots and seeds unaffected. High severity prescribed fire may kill common teasel, but could damage native species and is not recommended.

### CHEMICAL CONTROL METHODS

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to pastures and rangeland. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Follow the label for exact rates. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Metsulfuron (Escort XP)	1 oz. product/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply when in rosette or bolting growth stage. (Spring or fall rosettes, or early summer bolting)
Aminopyralid (Milestone)*	4-7 oz. product/acre (start with 7 oz.) + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply when in rosette or bolting growth stage. Best choice of herbicide to use in riparian areas. (Spring or fall rosettes, or early summer bolting) *Not permitted for use in the San Luis Valley.
Imazapic (Plateau)	8-12 oz. product/acre + 2 pints/acre methylated seed oil	Apply when in rosette or bolting growth stage. Good choice of herbicide to use in riparian areas. (Spring or fall rosettes, or early summer bolting)
Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective)*	4.75-8 oz. product/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply from the seedling to the bolting stage. IMPORTANT: Applications greater than 5.5 oz. product/acre exceeds the threshold for selectivity. DO NOT treat in the root zone of desirable trees and shrubs. Not for use on grazed or feed forage. *Product not permitted for use in the San Luis Valley.



Colorado Department of Agriculture - Conservation Services

305 Interlocken Parkway

Broomfield, CO 80021

(303) 869-9030

[www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds)

