

BENTON COUNTY WEED COMMISSION

Teasel (*Dipsacus* spp.)

Prepared By:

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Teasel was first introduced to the United States in the 1800s. It was brought here to be cultivated for use in textile processing. The dried flower heads were used on spindles to raise the nap of woolen cloth by textile workers.

The plants are tall, thistle-like biennials. This means that the plants take two years to grow and set seed. First year plants are a cluster basal leaves that store energy for the coming year. This is often the best time to control these plants. Second year plants bloom between June and October and often reach heights of up to 8 feet. A single plant can produce more than 2,000 seeds which can remain viable for at least 2 years.

Teasel is often found in sunny fields, roadsides, disturbed areas and waterways. Teasel can also invade lightly managed grasslands as well as high-quality natural areas.

Teasel Quick Facts:

- Classification: Iowa Noxious Weed
- Life Cycle: Biennial
- Flower Color: Purple
- Height: 8 Feet or higher
- Other Features: Spines Along Stems



Teasel Control

Teasel can easily invade grasslands and roadsides. When this occurs desirable vegetation is often out-competed for resources resulting in large monocultures of Teasel.

There are several ways to control Teasel. Teasel roots are sensitive to disturbance which makes them less of a threat in cultivated lands. Rooting out first year plants is effective when dealing with mild infestations. However, plowing may be necessary if a heavy infestation is found. When Teasel occurs in areas that cannot be plowed, a systematic broadleaf herbicide can be applied. This is most effective in the late summer or fall when the rosettes are actively growing.