

Common teasel

(*Dipsacus follonum* L.)



COMMON NAMES:

teasel, common teasel, wild teasel

DESCRIPTION:

Common teasel is a biennial plant brought to North America from Europe. It is a forb belonging to the Dipsacaceae family. It usually flowers between July and September and reproduces by seed. It can grow to be 1.6 to 9.8 feet tall. The plant has a taproot.

There are small spines and prickles covering the whole plant except its leaves have very minimal. The flower heads are terminal and have several long curled bracts coming from the base. The heads come from the main stem as well as branches coming off.

The leaves are opposite coming off the stems. They create bowl like structures where they attach to the stem to collect water (clasping). The midvein on the leaves is a bright white whereas the rest of the leaf is dark green. They have no hair.

Flowers are purple to lavender to pink and have a very spikey structure around them.

KEY FEATURES OF COMMON TEASEL:

Very spiny all over, especially on the stem and flower heads. It is tall and forms big patches. The plants dry out into a straw or grey color but do not break down, they hold their shape and persist for numerous years.

HABITAT:

It is found in more fertile soil of disturbed areas such as pastures, roadsides, cemeteries, and meadows. It has been located in Sheridan County in the city of Bighorn and on the roadside of W Loucks St heading out of town. It has also been located in several other states.

CONTROL

Please refer to the Sheridan County Weed & Pest Chemical Recommendations sheet.

OTHER FACTS:

They are not poisonous but do cause irritation to livestock if eaten due to their spines. In early Europe they were used to raise the nap of wool fabrics or to “tease” the wool.