



Dipsacus fullonum

WA – Class C Noxious Weed

Common Teasel

Fuller's Teasel, Wild Teasel

Family: Dipsacaceae

Origins: Native to Africa, Asia, and Europe, Common Teasel was first introduced to North America in the 1700s used in horticulture and in fleecing wool.

Range: Found throughout the United States.

Habitat: Frequently grows in and around garden areas, creeks and pond edges, pastures, roadsides, and other disturbed sites. Common Teasel grows best in poorly drained soils prone to flooding but has adapted to various soil types.



Impact: Common Teasel reproduces by seed, producing an average of 34,000 seeds per plant, which remain viable in the soil for at least two years. As a prolific seeder, it quickly invades and forms monocultures. Its large basal leaves shade the ground while its taproot extends deeper than other plants' roots, outcompeting other plants for resources.

Description: Common Teasel is a biennial or short-lived perennial that dies after it flowers. Growing as a rosette the first year, it bolts and flowers during its second year. Its taproot can grow 2 feet in length and 1 inch in diameter. The hollow stem reaches heights up to 6.5 feet tall with an opposite branching pattern. Prickly spines increase going up the stem.



(Rosette)

Narrow, oval-shaped basal leaves thin to a point at the base, have wavy margins, and typically die early in the second season. All leaves have spines on the midvein's underside and small spines on bases on the upper leaf surface. The stem leaves are opposite and prickly, especially on the lower side of the leaf midvein. Pale purple to dark pink flowers bloom in rings from July to September. Flower heads reach up to 4 inches tall and occur at the end of the main stem and terminally on opposite side branches. Bracts at the flower base are linear, prickly, curved upward, and unequal in length.

Common Look-Alikes: Cultivated Teasel, Cutleaf Teasel.

**Common Teasel is not known to be toxic.*

Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Rosettes can be removed by digging up and removing the entire root, or the plant will resprout. Annual control will be required to deplete the seed bank. Flowering stalks can be cut at the base after flowers have emerged; however, if cut too early, new stalks will emerge. Mowing after the formation of seed heads encourages the spread of seeds.
Cultural	Maintaining healthy, desirable vegetation can prevent Common Teasel infestations. Prescribed burning to remove dead stalks can be used before an herbicide application.
Biological	Biological agents are currently not available for Common Teasel in Washington State.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

2,4-D Amine (Gordon's Amine 400)	Timing: Apply to rosettes in fall or spring. Treating after plants bolt may not be effective. Remarks: Annual treatments needed to control seedlings; avoid drift to sensitive crops; do not apply near water.
Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective)	Timing: Apply to actively growing plants in spring. Remarks: Even low rates can kill non-target tree and shrub species, avoid application within a distance equal to the tree height of sensitive species; do not allow spray to drift off-target; can injure grass species; do not apply near water.
Dicamba + 2,4-D Amine (Banvel, Rifle, Clarity)	Timing: Apply to rosettes in fall or spring. Treating after plants bolt may not be effective. Remarks: Repeat applications may be necessary; avoid drift to sensitive crops; refer to label for grazing restrictions; do not apply near water.
Chlorsulfuron (Telar)	Timing: Apply to young, actively growing rosettes. Remarks: Registered for use on pasture, range, and non-cropland; do not apply to the frozen ground; maintain constant agitation while mixing the product with water; avoid contact with sensitive crops; can persist in the soil; do not treat powdery, dry soils and light, sandy soils if rain is not likely after treatment; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Metsulfuron (Escort, MSM)	Timing: Apply to young, actively growing plants. Remarks: Apply only to pasture, rangeland, and non-crop sites; application sites differ between products; do not allow spray to drift to sensitive crops; for best results, use a nonionic or silicone surfactant; do not apply near water.
Imazapic (Plateau)	Timing: Apply to rosettes in fall or spring. Remarks: Note crop rotations found on the label; apply with methylated seed oil; do not apply near water.

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.