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**Impacts:**

Teasel is an aggressive exotic species that can take over prairies and savannas if it is allowed to become established. A lack of natural enemies allows teasel to thrive in most areas. If left uncontrolled, teasel quickly can form large monocultures by out competing native vegetation.



**Suspected Means of Introduction:** Teasel is suspected to have been introduced in the 1700's accidentally from Europe in plant matter and floral arrangements.

# BioBullies

## Common Teasel

*Dispasacus fullonum*



**Description:** Teasel is a biennial herbaceous plant that can reach heights of 6 feet. During their first year of life the plant is a basal rosette of leaves, which then produces flowering stems. The dark-green opposite leaves clasp at the base, completely surrounding the stem. When the leaves are in basal stage and on the flowering plant, they have tiny spines covering them and appear rippled. The stems have downward facing spines running along a wood-like stem. The flowers range from white to purple and occur mainly in early summer. In the fall the teasel flower turns brown and is often used in floral arrangements.

Native Range: Europe

## Resources for Identification and Control of Common Teasel

Plant Profile Database -  
USDA

Invasive.org  
University of GA, US Forest  
Service, USDA APHIS

Global Invasive Species  
Team - The Nature  
Conservancy

The National Institute of  
Invasive Species Science -  
USGS

Noxious and Nuisance Plant  
Management Information  
System - USACE



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# Common Teasel

## *Dispacus fullonum*



**Habitat:** Teasel grows in open, sunny habitats and can be found in soils ranging from wet to dry. Teasel sometimes grows in prairies, savannas, and meadows, though it's more common for it to grow along roadsides, dumps, and disturbed areas.

**Biology:** Teasel plants can produce over 2,000 seeds per plant. The seeds can stay dormant in the soil for up to 2 years before growing. They are commonly dispersed by wind, so the new plants usually grow near older populations. When growing

near water ways, the seeds may be washed a little farther to establish new colonies.

**Control Methods:** Teasel is often compared with dandelions because of their growth patterns in a natural area. Herbicide application or digging the plant up are the best control methods for teasel. Teasel is easier to control than most plants because, if removed before the seed is set, it will not grow back. When using herbicide, read the label and follow all state and federal requirements.