

Cut Leaved Teasel

Dipsacuss laciniatus



John Somerville

Mature Height	2 to 6 feet	Soil Type	Prefers fertile soil but tolerates poor soil
Mature Spread	Varies	Flower Color	Usually White
Mature Form	Columnar	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Fairly Rapid	Fall Color	Green till Brown
Sun Exposure	Prefers full sun	Zones	
Soil Moisture	Prefers Moist		

This highly invasive member of the teasel family arrived in the United States from Europe around 1700 and is firmly established in the Midwest. It is generally considered to be a biennial plant but sometimes remains as a basal rosette for 2 years developing the seed stalk in the third year. It seems to prefer a disturbed site but grows best in a fertile loamy soil. It has lots of white spines on the stalk. It attracts bumble bees and several other insects. It is aggressive and hard to get rid of. Digging out the taproot is one way but if part of the root remains in the soil new plants often regenerate. If left uncontrolled it will take over open areas such as roadsides and prairies in a short time. Treatment with a systemic herbicide such as glyphosate is effective in the rosette stage. Removal of the seed head and burning or placing in a landfill will reduce new plants. But leaving the seed head on the ground lets the seed mature and will result in new plants. Some flower arrangements will also have teasels in them and is another way for the plants to spread as the arrangement is discarded.



Illinois Wildflowers



Kansas Wildflowers



University of Wisconsin—Green Bay



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

