

## Common

Colorado Department of  
Agriculture

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## Key ID Points

1. Grows over 6 feet tall.
2. Leaves at the base are dark green and appear rippled.
3. Flowers are purple or white.

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## Common teasel

### Identification and Management



### Identification and Impacts

**C**ommon teasel (*Dipsacus spp.*) is a biennial or sometimes monocarpic perennial forb. The fruits are a four-angled achene, each containing a single seed. Common teasel can produce more than 2,000 seeds per plant. The flowers are purple or white with spiny, awned bracts at the base. The flower head is generally egg-shaped, with a square base. The floral bracts at the base of the head are generally longer than the head. Rosette leaves are conspicuously veined, with stiff prickles on the lower midrib and appear to be wrinkled. Stem leaves are simple, opposite, net-veined, stalkless, and clasp the stem. Mature plants can grow up to or over six feet tall. The taprooted stem is rigid with several rows of downward turned prickles. Plants die after production of seed has occurred.

**H**abitats for Common teasel include open, sunny habitats that range from wet to dry levels. It is generally found along irrigation ditches, rivers, abandoned fields, pastures, waste places, and forests. Common teasel is spreading rapidly in America, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. In Colorado, teasel is usually found in relatively moist, disturbed situations but is moving into drier areas. Seeds can stay viable for at least 2 years. Seeds

don't generally disperse far from the parent plant. Plants can regenerate fairly easily, due to the bare ground where the basal leaves were. Common teasel is native to Europe where it historically had many uses.

**T**he key to effective control of Common teasel is prevention. Eliminate seed production to decrease the spread of this forb, and continue to deplete the seed bank for four to six years. Reseeding areas with perennial grasses for several years will reduce an infestation. Mechanical and chemical control methods are effective when dealing with Common teasel. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

**C**ommon teasel is designated as a "List B" species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds) and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services



Photos © Kelly Uhing, Colorado Department of Agriculture.

*Dipsacus spp.*

**CULTURAL**

Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production and maintaining healthy native communities. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service for seed mix recommendations. Maintain healthy pastures and prevent bare spots caused by overgrazing.

**BIOLOGICAL**

There is no biological control available for Common teasel. Since biological control agents take years to research, develop and release, no releases are expected in the foreseeable future. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

**MECHANICAL**

Treatments such as digging and cutting can be effective in certain situations. Digging at the rosette and bolting stage, making sure that the majority of the root comes up, can be effective. Cutting plants when near the flowering stage is also effective. When using either of these methods, revisiting the site frequently is recommended to ensure regrowth does not occur.

*Integrated Weed Management:*

*The key to controlling Common teasel is to eliminate seed production and exhaust the seed bank in the soil. Common teasel does not reproduce vegetatively and dies after seed production.*

*Mechanical and chemical control methods can be effective.*

# Common teasel

**HERBICIDES**

**NOTE:** The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Please read label for exact rates. **Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!**

| HERBICIDE                | RATE   | APPLICATION TIMING  |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Metsulfuron (Escort XP)  | 1 oz. of product/ac. + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant                      | Apply when in rosette or bolting growth stage. (Spring or Fall rosettes or Early summer bolting)  |
| Aminopyralid (Milestone) | 4 to 7 fl. oz./ac. (start with 7 fl. oz.) + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant | Apply when in rosette or bolting growth stage. Best choice of herbicide to use in riparian areas. (Spring or Fall rosettes or Early summer bolting) |
| Imazapic (Plateau)       | 8 to 12 fl. oz./ac. + 2 pt/ac. methylated seed oil                         | Apply when in rosette or bolting growth stage. Good choice of herbicide to use in riparian areas. (Spring or Fall rosettes or Early summer bolting) |

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