

# Cutleaf teasel

Colorado Dept. of  
Agriculture,  
Conservation  
Services Division  
700 Kipling Street  
Suite 4000  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
303-239-4100



## Key ID Points

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

## Cutleaf teasel Identification and Management



### Identification and Impacts

Cutleaf teasel (*Dipsacus spp.*) is a biennial or sometimes monocarpic perennial forb. The plant grows as a basal rosette for a minimum of one year then sends up a tall flowering stalk and dies after flowering. The period of time in the rosette stage varies depending on the amount of time needed to acquire enough resources for flowering to occur. The flowers are almost white (tanish) or white with spiny, awned bracts at the base. The floral bracts at the base of the head are generally longer than the head and wider than Common teasel. Flowering plants have large, oblong, opposite leaves that form cups and are prickly. The fruits are a four-angled achene, each contains a single seed. A single teasel plant can produce over 2,000 seeds. Rosette leaves are conspicuously veined, vary from somewhat ovoid in young plants to large and oblong leaves that are quite hairy in older plants. Stem leaves are simple, opposite, broad and feathering lobed. Mature plants can grow up to or over six feet tall. Cutleaf teasel blooms from July through September.

Habitats for Cutleaf 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. Teasels are an aggressive exotic species that have the capacity to take over prairies

and savannas if allowed to become established.

Seeds typically don't disperse far; most seedlings will be located around the parent plant. Parent plants often provide an optimal nursery site for new teasel plants after the adult dies. Dead adult plants leave a relatively large area of bare ground, formerly occupied by their own basal leaves, that new plants readily occupy. Seeds may have the capacity to be water-dispersed, which may allow seeds to be dispersed over longer distances. Immature seed heads of Cutleaf teasel are capable of producing viable seed. Lack of natural enemies allows teasel to proliferate. If left unchecked, teasel can quickly form large monocultures excluding all native vegetation. Cutleaf teasel is more aggressive than Common teasel.

The key to effective control of Cutleaf 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 Cutleaf teasel. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Cutleaf 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/csd](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/csd) and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.

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*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 Cutleaf 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 plants 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 Cutleaf teasel is to eliminate seed production and exhaust the seed bank in the soil. Cutleaf teasel does not reproduce vegetatively and dies after seed production.*

*Mechanical and chemical control methods can be effective.*

## Cutleaf 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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