

Common Teasel

Dipsacus fullonum

Description: Common teasel, also called Fuller's teasel, is a tall, somewhat spiny, short-lived perennial or biennial. The distinctive seed heads are popular in floral arrangements. Originally from Europe and Northern Africa, common teasel was first introduced to North America in the 1700's.

For one or more years the teasel plants form low growing rosettes before bolting. The mature plants may grow to 6 ½ feet in height. The flowers are light purple growing in bands around the spiny cone-like heads. The cones occur singly on top of the prickly stems. The subtending bracts curve around the heads forming a 'cage'.

The basal leaves are distinctly wrinkled with a pale mid-vein and scalloped edges. The long pointed stem leaves are opposite and prickly.

Habitat: Teasel prefers moderately moist soil but tolerates both dry and wet conditions. It grows on roadsides, creeks, fields, and pastures. It can form large dense stands and is very competitive in open grassy habitats. It can outcompete native grass species in some areas.

Mechanical: Mechanical control is also effective if done correctly. Once the flowering stalks form, wait until the flowers start to appear and then cut the plants at, or right below, ground level with a machete or sharp shovel.

Biological: none

Fire: unknown

Cultural control: Mowing is not as effective because plants can re-grow from the root crown if they are cut too high. If a mower is used, set it as low as possible and check back for any re-sprouting plants. Teasel plants that are knocked over by the mower or cut too high will probably be able to re-grow and set seed. Also, it is best to remove the flower heads and dispose of them because immature heads have been known to set seed if they are left on the ground.

Chemical: These chemical recommendations are for non-cropland areas and are summarized from the "Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook –2015". These recommendations are not intended to be a complete resource guide. Label requirements need to be followed for restrictions, concentrations, timing, and non-target interactions. Chemical control can be effective, but must be maintained for several years to exhaust the seed bank.

2,4-D amine

Rate 1 lb ae/A

Time Apply to rosette stage in Fall or Spring.

Remarks Treating after teasel begins to bolt may not be effective.

Caution Avoid drift of chemical to sensitive crops.

Site of action Group 4: synthetic auxin

Chemical family Phenoxy acetic acid

2,4-D amine + dicamba (Banvel, Rifle, or Clarity)

Rate 0.75 lb ae/A 2,4-D + 0.125 lb ae/A dicamba

Time Apply to rosette stage in fall or spring.

Remarks Treatments made after teasel begins to bolt may not be effective.

Caution Avoid drift to sensitive crops.

Site of action (both) Group 4: synthetic auxin

Chemical family (2,4-D) phenoxy acetic acid; (dicamba) benzoic acid

Chlorsulfuron (Telar)

Rate 0.75 oz ai/A (1 oz/A Telar)

Time For best results, apply to actively growing teasel in the rosette stage.

Remarks Constantly agitate while mixing and spraying. Add 0.25% v/v nonionic surfactant to spray mixture. Apply with ground equipment in at least 10 gal/A carrier.

Caution Registered for use on pasture, range, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and non-cropland only. Avoid contact with sensitive crops. Can persist in soil. Do not treat powdery, dry soils or light, sandy soils unless rain is likely soon after treatment. Do not apply to frozen ground.

Site of action Group 2: acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitor

Chemical family Sulfonylurea

Imazapic (Plateau)

Rate 0.125 to 0.188 lb ai/A

Time Apply to rosettes.

Remarks Add 1 quart/A methylated seed oil.

Caution Before using, note crop rotation restrictions.

Site of action Group 2: acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitor

Chemical family Imidazolinone

Metsulfuron (Escort and others)

Rate Escort: 0.45 oz ai/A (0.75 oz/A)

Time Apply to actively growing plants.

Remarks Using a nonionic or silicone surfactant increases effectiveness. Application sites differ among products; consult labels.

Caution Apply only to pasture, rangeland, and non-crop sites.

Site of action Group 2: acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitor

Chemical family Sulfonylurea

Recommended treatment: Teasel is not difficult to kill if treated with herbicides as a rosette. Since it is often found adjacent to water bodies, Chaparral is the easiest herbicide to use.

Distribution: Scattered throughout Asotin County. In riparian communities and wet areas at lower elevations and in pastures and open grassy areas at higher elevations.

ACNWCB Policy: Controlled on a complaint basis by adjoining neighbors and/or in selected areas.

