



The Door County Invasive Species Team

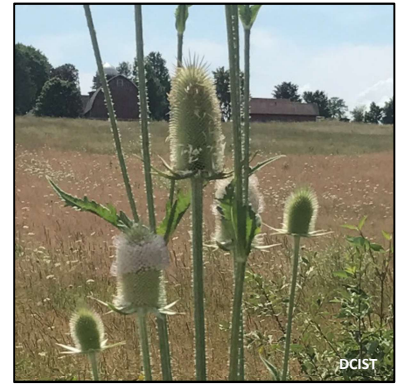
Empowering Door County citizens and municipalities with the information, tools, and skills to tackle invasive species.

A Quick Guide to Common & Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus spp.*)

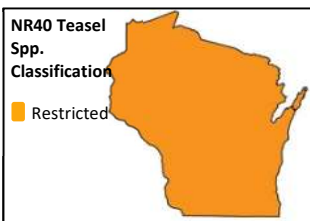
What are Common and Cutleaf Teasel?

Common and cutleaf teasel are two invasive plants in the teasel family, the difference between the two species is the shape of the leaves. Common teasel leaves are not lobed and serrated, like a romaine lettuce leaf, and cutleaf teasel are lobed and serrated, like a dandelion leaf. Common & cutleaf teasel, are monocarpic perennials, they spend a year or more in a vegetative state before flowering once then dying. First year plants and consecutive vegetative growth consists only of basal leaves, leaves that grow low to the ground. Once ready to reproduce teasel species (*spp.*) develop a tall spike with small white flowers (cutleaf) or purple flowers (common) in late June-late September growing to a height of 2-8' tall. As the plant matures the seed heads develop. Each plant produces about 2,000 seeds per plant. Seeds of teasel *spp.* can remain viable 2 years after development.

Teasels are prolific seed producers; however, the seeds are too heavy to be dispersed by wind resulting in most seeds falling near the parent plant. The result is expansion of existing infestations. Long range dispersal and the pioneer populations are often a result of a variety of means including; water movement, drifting snow, and vehicles and equipment including mowers. These methods of dispersal often result in populations being distributed along transportation corridors and recreational trails. Teasel *spp.* have been noted in or near graveyards, spread by seed from dried floral arrangements. Wildlife also can distribute seed by consuming and depositing the seeds elsewhere. Teasel *spp.* form large dense stands that choke out desirable plant species. Reducing forage areas, wildlife habitat, and species diversity. Additionally, grazing animals avoid eating teasel *spp.* impacting pasture lands. Dense populations of teasel *spp.* decrease recreational value of properties due to the prickly nature of the plant and impact the natural scenery.



Teasel Spp. WI DNR Classification



Teasel *spp.* are listed under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule Chapter NR 40 as a restricted species. Restricted species are those that are already present throughout the state of Wisconsin and are not likely to be eradicated. Restricted species are likely to cause significant environmental and economic harm or harm to human health. The NR 40 Rule makes it illegal to transport, transfer, or introduce invasive species listed as restricted.

How to Control Teasel

There are many mechanical and chemical control options available. Please note that control options may take several years to have an effect due to size of the seed bank and method used. It is important to control populations prior to plants going to seed and important to properly dispose of any and all plant material. Manual and mechanical control options have proven to be effective for less dense and/or small populations, but these methods take many years to see results. Mechanical methods include: mowing, digging/pulling, & burning populations.



Chemical control is recommended for larger more established populations. Chemical control options include foliar, and cut stump applications of a systemic herbicide. Many herbicides, herbicide combinations and application methods have been tried on teasel and work to a greater or lesser degree. Like any other weed control method, herbicides will fail if used incorrectly. Using herbicide correctly means: using an herbicide that specialized for site conditions & designated for target species, using correct concentration (rate) of herbicides active ingredient, using an adjuvant if recommended (adjuvants are spray additives which may help the herbicide work more effectively), using the right application method made under the appropriate conditions, and applying herbicide during the correct timing to coincide with plant susceptibility. Make sure to read and follow all directions and follow any restrictions or precautions listed on the product label. Additionally, depending on population location applicators may be required to have a specialized certification, use site specific approved herbicides, and acquire permits prior to treatment (example: treatments in aquatic habitats). For more information about treatment efficacy please check out the UW Extension Invasive Plants Factsheet: <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A3924-14.pdf>.



Control Efforts in Door County and How to Help



The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) is a group of natural resource professionals and interested public members that are concerned about the preservation of Door County's natural environment. DCIST seeks to halt the invasion of exotic, non-native plants by empowering citizens with the education, tools and skills necessary to control invasive species. DCIST is committed to educating, preventing, minimizing, and eradicating invasive plants and reducing their impact on Door County's natural resources, economic viability, and human welfare. The partnership promotes an open exchange of information, public and private sector coordination, and citizen involvement.

Teasel is one of four priority invasive species that the County targets year to year. Additionally, most municipalities within Door County have adopted noxious weed ordinances, many of these ordinances target teasel spp. These municipalities can participate in the County Invasive Species Cost Share Program. If you would like to participate in the Municipal Cost Share Program reach out to your municipal clerk to inquire. DCIST also secures control grants to treat populations within specific project areas, landowner permission slips are mailed out for all populations inventoried within DCIST project areas. To see populations that have been inventoried please visit the Door County Web Map at: <http://map.co.door.wi.us/map/>.

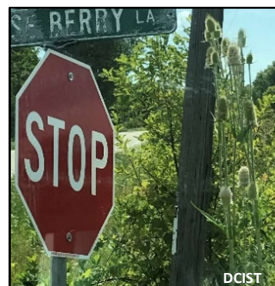
Please report any invasive species population to DCIST via their website at www.Doorinvasives.org or using the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) app <https://apps.bugwood.org/apps/gledn/>, or by reaching out to the DCIST coordinator via email at DCIST1@gmail.com or leave a message on the DCIST message line at (920) 746-5955. These reports help keep inventories up to date and allow landowners to benefit by participating in the Municipal Cost Share Program and/or receive educational resources and potential control resources through grant funding.



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DCIST



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