

# Weed of The Week

1-25-2021

## Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)

Commonly used in fall decorations and flower arrangements, this weed can be found growing in pastures, meadows, and idle/fallow fields. Known for its spines and bristles, this weed is often confused with Canada Thistle and Bull Thistle. Common Teasel is thought to have been imported from Europe with wool or as an ornamental, distribution of the plant has stretched throughout most of the northeast region of the united states and Southern Canada. Common Teasel is a biannual meaning that the growth period is 2 years. The first year consists of establishment from seed and growing a rosette, the second year the plant will bolt a long slender shoot reaching heights of 5-6 feet tall. Flowering will take place in the second year. The flower of Common Teasel is oriented in a spiny cone structure producing white – violet-colored petals in a tube. Common teasel can be associated with wet soils with drainage issues considering the plant prefers wet organic soil. This weed is very winter hardy and will persist throughout the winter so the best time to control this weed would be fall and very early spring while the plant is in the rosette growth stage. Herbicides such as Glyphosate, 2-4-D, Garlon 3A, and Cross Bow are very effective in the rosette stage of growth. Mowing the plant before flowering can also prevent spread and new generations to come.

