



Weed of The Week

Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)

This week's weed of the week features a thorny nuisance that was once a very important plant for wool production! Common Teasel is a biennial weed that was once used as a brush to clean wool. Found growing throughout Ohio and the northeast, this weed makes its presence mostly known in pastures, fallow fields, fence lines, and roadsides. This plant has an ingenious way to service dry weather by producing leaves that form a cup around the stem that collects rainfall. Common Teasel can grow to heights of 6 feet and produce a prickly cone shaped flower with small purple- or violet-colored blooms. This weed has a very deep-rooted tap roots with small fibrous roots that shoot off the main root. As common Teasel matures it will become very woody and produce up to 3,300 seeds per plant. Controlling Common Teasel can be a challenge in pastures, the use of mowing before the flower stage and seed production. Herbicides that can be used in pastures include Chaparral, Curtail, and Metsulfuron. Tillage is a good method of control in crop fields and garden areas.

