Teasel

**Yearly Growth Chart**

Latin name: Dipsacus fullonum, to be thirsty, meaning leaves hold water at leaf base. Teasel is a monocarpic biennial plant that forms a basal rosette the first year. The second year the plant grows a stalk called a cane that flowers, sets seed and then dies. Hundreds of seeds produced by the parent plant begin the two year cycle over again.

**First Season**
- Old cane from former season is surrounded by hundreds of first year plants.
- Rosettes MUST be sprayed before plants have time to bolt & flower out.

**Second Season**
- 6,000 seeds from one plant begin to germinate and form rosettes.
- Seeds fall within a 5’ circle around plant.
- Teasel’s thick, deep, tap root helps ensure its survival of repeated mowings.

**Third Season**
- Is a good time to locate, map and spray out colonies of teasel.
- Each flower head can produce an average of 500 seeds.

**Fourth Season**
- Rosettes that did not flower in the past season will bolt and flower before July 4th.

**End of Third Season**
- Thick rosette carpets form, killing all original turf. Teasel seeds are spread far & wide by wind, water and as hitchhikers on the decks of riding mowers.

**Nature abhors a vacuum**
- Bare spots MUST be re-seeded with prairie or desirable roadside plant material.
- Bare spots are magnets for other invasive windblown seeds. Dormant teasel seed can wait up to 10 years before resprouting.

**Reseeding is Vital**
- When a colony is sprayed out and no original turf remains, the need to reseed is VITAL!

**Regenerating Rosettes**
- Teasel’s flowers are white or lavender.

**Use available technology**
- Track & mark teasel colonies using GPS technology, which keeps maps for 10 years. This can help track possible dormant seed & resprout areas to scout and spray in future years.

**Visuals scout formerly infected areas**
- Plants missed in first round of spraying stand upright. Sprayed plants bend over at ‘neck’.

**Taproot can be 8”-12” long**
- Teasel plants do not die until they finish flowering.

**End of 3rd season**
- Rosette carpet seen in aftermath of mowing

Teasel  Latin name: Dipsacus - to be thirsty, leaves hold water at leaf base. Teasel is a monocarpic biennial which normally lives 3 years, flowers and dies. Mowing can extend the life of a monocarpic biennial plant by several years until it flowers. Introduced to US in 1700s as a crop Headed to card wool Escaped from old grave decorations being tossed into ditch/ hillside Plant grows up to 6 ft. tall or more Teasel seed can float down ditches and streams Mowers can spread seed over several miles Teasel mown midsummer will resprout, flower & set seed in time for fall mowout.

**Circle 1: First Season of Full Growth** During the first growing season a single teasel plant can produce an average of 12 flowering heads per plant. Each head can produce an average of 500 seeds. 12 heads average/plant x 500 seeds per head = 6,000 seeds per teasel plant Under normal- non disturbance circumstances, seeds will drop within 8 ft. of the parent plant. Fall mowing operations can spread seed over several miles if mower decks are NOT cleaned off.

**Circle 2: Second Season** 6,000 seeds from each plant have the potential to germinate and form rosettes. Seeds will germinate in all types of turf, mowed and or prairie. Rosettes tolerate all soil types and conditions; waters edge, dry slopes, salty roadsides, woodland, wetland and prairie edges. Not all seed germinates the first year and can lay dormant for 10 years or longer.

**Means of Seed Distribution**
- Seeds wash downstream in rain events
- Seeds can be transported on mower decks
- Seeds can be transported via animals
- Seeds can be windblown

Mowing DOES NOT KILL the rosettes or canes Plants remain in rosette stage throughout first season.

**Taproots, one inch thick and 12” deep** develop with leaves up to 20 inches long. Rosettes stay green after several hard freezes, as late as mid-December in central Illinois. Rosettes begin to out-compete existing turf and start forming carpets of teasel rosettes.

**Circle 3: Third Season** Rosettes regenerate from previous years old growth, forming new wide leaves 12-18” long. Teasel rosettes smother grass by forming rosette carpets. Plants send up a mainshoot, called a bolt, around mid-May. Teasel flowers are pollinated by bumble and common honeybees. Rosettes tolerate all soil types and conditions; waters edge, dry slopes, salty roadsides, woodland, wetland and prairie edges. Not all seed germinates the first year and can lay dormant for 10 years or longer.

**Optimum time to spray teasel colonies is just before flowering.** If unable to spray in time, selectively mow out patch. Locate patch using GPS mapping. MARK ON MAP! Wait for plants to re-bolt, then spray. Don’t confuse compass plant or prairie dock bolts for teasel bolts. The cost to replace lost prairie plants due to teasel displacement or inadvertent spraying is 8.2 cents per square foot. At an average of 3,600 prairie plants per acre, per 5 acre interchange can equal $18,000 (based on average 2012 IL DOT prices).

Mowing will NOT control this plant Teasel can and will resprout and set seed after mowing. Teasel MUST be sprayed or hand pulled. If not treated, one plant producing an average of 6,000 seeds per season, can generate over 3,000 plants. Multiply each of those 3,000 plants by 6,000 seeds = 18,000,000 seeds by the second generation of teasel

**Circle 4: Third Season** Mowed teasel will resprout and refower producing viable seed. Teasel’s thick taproot ensures the plants survival of repeated mowings. Teasel colonies are easily identified by lime green color and rabbit ear rosettes. Mown teasel will regenerate in time to flower and set seed before mowing out again in fall. All adjacent turf will be gone due to suppression by teasel rosette colonies.

**Means of Seed Distribution**
- Seeds wash downstream in rain events
- Seeds can be transported on mower decks
- Seeds can be transported via animals
- Seeds can be windblown

**Rosette stage is a good time to eradicate plants with selective herbicides; 2-4 D, triclopyr, aminopyralid, clopyralid herbicide or hand dig single plants.**

**Circle 5: Fourth Season** Teasel rosettes that did not fully flower the previous year will remain in the teasel carpet patch. Rosettes stay green after several hard freezes. Teasel seed heads that manage to resprout and fall and seed are spread far and wide by fall mowouts. Teasel seed rides on top of mower decks, falling off on steep hills, embankments and bridge cones. Seed can be spread several miles as hitchhikers on mowers.

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