

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Cutleaf teasel
Dipsacus laciniatus

Other common names: cut-leaved teasel

USDA symbol: DILA4
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Cutleaf teasel is native to Europe and was introduced to North America in the 1700s. Teasel is still used in horticultural plantings for material in dried flower arrangements. In Oregon teasels were grown for the wool garment industry where it later escaped cultivation and now displaces desirable vegetation.

Distribution in Oregon: The first documented infestation of cutleaf teasel was in Jackson County. In 2007, it was also discovered in Klamath County on the Miller Island Waterfowl Refuge. Two years later, a large site was discovered in Lake County.

Description: Cutleaf teasel is a biennial forb growing up to seven feet tall supported by a large taproot. Flowers are small, white and packed into terminal heads enclosed by stiff, spiny bracts. Leaves on the flowering stalks are large, deeply lobed, opposite, and wrap around the stem forming small reservoirs holding water at their base. Both leaves and stems are prickly. Common teasel is similar, but has purple flowers and no lobes on upper leaves.

Impacts: Cutleaf teasel can form large stands that inhibit the growth of desirable plant species especially in riparian areas. It reduces forage, degrades wildlife habitat, and competes with native species. It can invade high quality areas such as prairies, savannas, seeps, and sedge meadows.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available.

