

School-to-Nature



Teasel

Teasel is a very invasive weed that has migrated north and has become common on roadsides and in fallow fields in our area. On Conservancy lands our volunteers remove it wherever it is seen. Additional photos of the Teasel life cycle are included so that you can identify and remove it early in its development.

As this plant goes through its annual cycle, it forms a root system that can reach six feet deep. It also forms hundreds of underground “runners” called rhizomes that will form new plants in a dense mat that can spread ten feet wider each year.

Along with the problem of the very invasive and vigorous growth of the Teasel plant, the mature and dried plants are very difficult to handle because there are tough thorns and bristles all over the stems and flower heads. Each dry flower head has 850 seeds to disperse, with up to 40 heads on each plant. So- it takes a lot to control.

Teasel is here to stay wherever it is not controlled. It should be removed wherever it is possible, because it takes over and displaces all native and cultivated plants wherever it grows. Teasel plants have no food value nor any proven medicinal value for humans or animals; but its seeds are eaten by birds and small rodents.

If you find Teasel growing on your property, you’ll need to apply an herbicide such as 2, 4-D or glyphosate directly to the rosette of leaves at the base, in spring or fall, and be aware that Teasel seeds or rhizomes may sprout later as well. Follow label directions carefully for any herbicide, and be aware that such chemicals may kill other nearby plants.



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