

Fuller's teasel

Dipsacus fullonum

Description

Cultivated for use of the dried flower heads in wool processing. A blue dye obtained from the dried plant is an indigo substitute and is water soluble. A yellow is obtained when the plant is mixed with alum. This plant also has a history of medicinal uses from treating skin diseases to treating jaundice.

Habit

Biennial; exists as a basal rosette until flower stems develop large taproot up to 2 ft.

Leaves

Large, oblong, opposite, sessile leaves that form cups; prickly, especially on the lower midrib; rosette leaves are lanceolate to oblanceolate.

Stems

Reach 6 ft (1.8 m) in height; short prickles on the midvein; stem leaves are opposite, lanceolate and fused at the base.





Flowers

Purple in color, small, dense, oval-shaped, bracts present; bloom in a spiral pattern.

Fruits and Seeds

Hairy achene, or a dry fruit with a single seed.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in roadsides, ditches, waste places, riparian sites, fields and pastures.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Cutleaf teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*), which has irregularly cut dissected leaves with white flowers and Indian teasel (*Dipsacus sativus*), which have shorter, stiffer and curved backward spines at the tips of the flower bracts.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Cutting, digging, and burning; The use of Triclopyr applied to foliage and stems.

Credits

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