

Cutleaf teasel

Dipsacus laciniatus

Description

Introduced to North America as early as the 1700s. The first cultivation took place in Onondaga County, New York.

Habit

Biennial; monocarpic; grows 2-6 ft tall; stout taproot; first year plant a basal rosette of wrinkled leaves.

Leaves

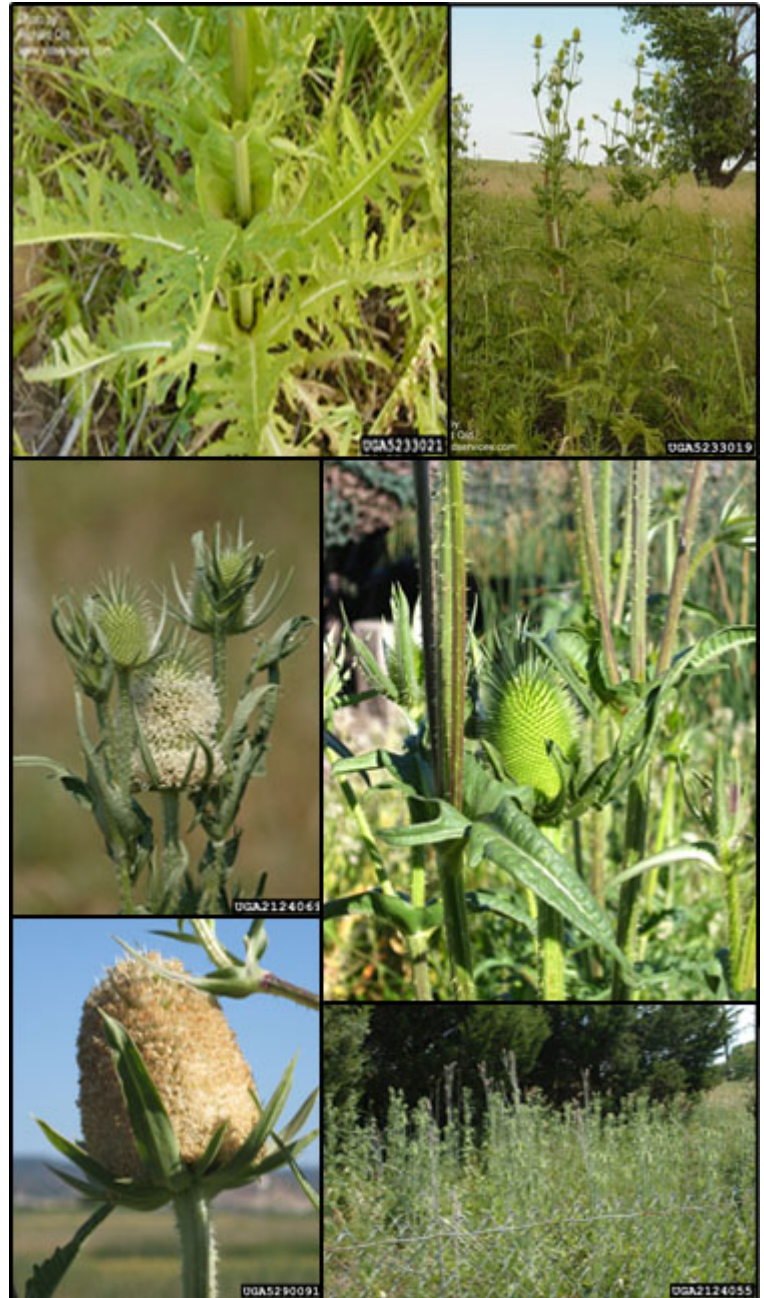
Stem leaves lance-shaped and irregular, deeply pinnately-cut, opposite, joined at bases surround the stem in a cup-like appearance.

Stems

3 m tall, with hooked and straight prickles; striate ridged, herbaceous but stout, erect, typically single from the base, branching in the apical half.

Flowers

White to purple in color, 4-parted, with irregular petals; inflorescence a dense, cylindrical cluster





on a long, naked stalk, spiny bracts not taller than the flower cluster; blooms July through September.

Fruits and Seeds

Each flower is replaced by an oblong seed that is 4-angled, truncate on one end and rounded on the other, plants can produce up to 2000 seeds viable for at least 2 years.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Grows in moist soils and found along roadsides and in disturbed areas.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Fuller's teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*); Wild lettuce (*Lactuca* spp.) when in rosette stage, quite different once flowering stalk forms.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling and digging for small infestations; Frequent mowing throughout growing season; effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides.

Credits

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