MISIN Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

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.

Source: MISIN. 2024. Midwest Invasive Species Information Network. Michigan State University - Applied Spatial Ecology and Technical Services Laboratory. Available online at https://www.misin.msu.edu/facts/detail.php?id=161.

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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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