

# Common teasel

*Dipsacus fullonum L.*

Teasel family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Large club-like flower heads in second year of life cycle; heads are over 2 inches long, spiny and loosely enclosed in cage-like bracts
- ❑ Numerous tiny purple flowers in circular rows around the flower heads
- ❑ Large upright stems have vertical ribs and several rows of downward turned prickles; stout plant skeletons remain erect through the winter
- ❑ Rosette leaves are wrinkled and oval with prickles on the lower midrib first year; second year leaves are more lance like, conspicuously veined and also have prickles on the lower midrib
- ❑ Leaves of flowering plants form cups that may hold water



*Stephen L. Solheim*

## Biology and ecology

- A tap-rooted biennial growing to 6 feet tall
- Prefers and spreads rapidly in moist sites
- Upper stems and flower heads often used in dried plant displays
- Native to Europe now widespread in the US
- Flowering occurs from July to August
- Not suitable for grazing

## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt and spread through dried flower arrangements

*Biological* - None known at this time

*Cultural* - Healthy vegetative cover helps reduce likelihood of establishment but doesn't stop it

*Mechanical* - Cutting, digging and cultivation work if repeated enough to eliminate seed production

*Chemical* - Several effective at label rates if applied to rosettes or early season growth in second year, but control is difficult later in growth cycle



*old seed head-commonly used in dried floral arrangements & crafts*



***Where found*** – Widely distributed in Stevens County particularly in moist sites that are not tilled regularly such as in pastures and along streams. Moving into drier sites, too.