

# NOXIOUS WEED ALERT

## Teasel (*Dipsacus Fullonum*)

- Teasel is a biennial that can grow up to six feet tall
- The stems are stout and coarse with prickles
- The branches are opposite and ascending
- The conspicuous purple flowers sprout from a 1-4 inch long egg-shaped cone
- One plant may produce more than 2,000 seeds
- The young plants (rosettes) have bright green leaves with veined, lobed, and wrinkly with spines
- Mature plants have leaves that are coarse, spear-like, and point up



Teasel rosette

### **Distribution:**

Teasel may be found in pastures, gardens, wetlands, along stream banks and ditches, and along roadsides throughout much of Clallam County. The worst concentrations occur near Sequim.



Old teasel flower heads

### **WHY BE CONCERNED?**

- Teasel is aggressively invasive and will quickly establish dense, prickly stands
- Teasel is inedible to most animals including livestock, and provides poor habitat for birds and wildlife
- Teasel can grow into massive thickets
- Teasel can thrive in wet and dry areas
- Teasel generally spreads along roadsides, gardens, pastures, and moist areas
- Teasel has been noted as a problem weed in more than 20 Washington counties
- Teasel can be spread by mowing

**Teasel is a Class B weed; control is required in selected areas of the County.**

## Ecology:

- Teasel can survive under most conditions.
- It is a biennial, producing a dense rosette of dark green leaves the first year, and long stalks and flowers the second year.
- Reproduction is mainly by seed. One plant produces up to at least 2,000 seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for up to 16 years.

## CONTROL

### Prevention and early detection are the best means of control.

- **Practice** good pasture management; avoid overgrazing, irrigate and fertilize as needed, and reseed bare ground. A healthy pasture will resist weed invasion.
- **Use** weed free hay and seed; avoid introducing weed contaminated soil.
- **Clean** equipment that has been used in infested areas.
- **Remove** seedlings when young; newly established plants can usually be pulled without leaving root fragments in the ground.
- **Replant** newly weeded areas with desirable plant species that will discourage reinfestation.
- **Dispose** of weeds properly, bag or burn seed heads
- **Monitor** the site for several years; promptly remove new seedlings.

**CUTTING** is not an effective control method unless followed up with pulling or herbicide treatment. Cutting before flowering does not destroy the plant, but makes it more likely to develop larger taproots instead. Cut plants may not die as biennials usually do, but may survive, produce more seed, and grow even more vigorously than uncut plants.

**PULLING/DIGGING** can be very effective, especially when the ground is soft and moist. Remove as much of the root as possible or the plant may resprout. All flower heads should be removed and disposed of in the trash or burned. If flowers have begun to produce seeds, the plants should be gathered gently into plastic bags to minimize escape of seeds. Learn to recognize seedlings or rosettes; it's best to control plants in the first year before they can develop flowers and go to seed.

- **Note:** Teasel is **sharp and spiny**. Wearing gloves when handling plants is recommended.

**HERBICIDES** can be effective, but should always be applied with care. Do not apply any herbicides over or near water bodies. Read the label to check that you are applying an herbicide in the right place, to the right plant, at the right time, and in the right amount. Herbicides are more effective on first year (rosette) than second year plants. Translocated herbicides, (ones that move throughout a plant's system), such as Weedmaster™ (2,4-D and dicamba) or Crossbow™, are recommended because they selective to broad leafed weeds. Glyphosate based products such as Roundup™ may also be used, but will also kill grass, which provides good competition for teasel. .



Teasel thicket