



Control Options for Common Teasel

General Information

Teasel, a native to Europe, is a biennial or short-lived perennial herb, growing up to 8 feet tall. It grows best in full sunlight and can form monocultures. A single plant can produce up to 2000 seeds, and up to 80% of seeds germinate. The seeds are viable in the soil for up to 2 years. Dried teasel heads are often used in flower arrangements, and are inadvertently spread in this manner.

Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Small stands of teasel can be controlled through hand removal. If digging, care should be used to remove as much as the root as possible. Seed fall can be controlled by cutting the flowering stems after flowering has started, but before seeds are mature. If this method is used, cut stems should be removed from the site, as cut flowers may continue to mature and produce viable seed. If flowering plants are cut just below the soil surface, the plant will not usually reflower. As with all control methods, the area should be monitored for regrowth and will require repeat control to eradicate the plants. Disturbance of the soil during manual control may cause the germination of any teasel seeds in the soil, so the area should be monitored to control any new seedlings.



Chemical Recommendations

Teasel can be controlled using specific herbicides. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. If spraying is the chosen option, spray late in the evening to reduce the direct impact on pollinating insects. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

2,4-D (marketed under a variety of brands) can be applied to plants in the rosette stage, in the spring or fall. Treatment will be less effective if plants have started to bolt. Follow label directions for mixing the appropriate solution strength.

Dicamba + 2,4-D can be applied to plants in the rosette stage, in spring or fall. Follow label directions for mixing the appropriate solution strength. Spray plants until they are just wet.

NEVER apply herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use. Ingredients in these products may be toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook.