

Background:

Teasel is biennial plant that was introduced in the 1800s for textile processing. It is native to Eurasia and North Africa. It is a noxious weed and forms large monocultures in disturbed and unmanaged areas. Often resembles thistles.



Teasel bolt in early summer

Teasel (*Dipsacus spp.*)

Impact on Native Habitat:

Teasel grows in densely formed monocultures out competing other native vegetation within a prairie, roadside or other disturbed areas. This results in a great reduction of food and cover available for wildlife. However, they do attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Infestations can inhibit native forb and grass establishment Teasel can increase its populations over a short period of time. Prescribed burning has no control on teasel and may cause a flush of growth from the seedbank.

Identification

Leaves: The leaves are opposite and can get up to 12" long and 3" across. They are green, lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, ascending to spreading with either smooth, slightly prickly or irregularly toothed margins.



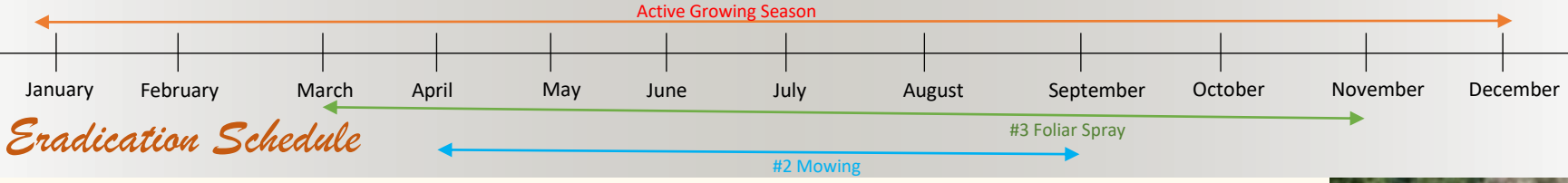
Stems: During 2nd year, stems develop and are pale green with scattered white prickles and flat longitudinal ridges..



Flowers: Terminal stems produce a stout, ovular spike up to 4" long and 1.5" wide with purple petals. The flowers bloom in mid-summer to early fall



Seeds: Formed from the flowers off of the terminal stems. Similar to the seed of a thistle.



How to Kill: Eradication

- 1. Hand pulling-** When the plant is small and the soil is moist, hand pulling is an option if the entire plant can be removed, including the roots. This is a very labor intensive method, requiring surveying the same acreage year after year to pull the resprouts.
- 2. Mowing-** Before plants are seeded out in late summer, a high mowing can help set back the plant and reduce spread. However, this will not completely eradicate the infestation. Mowing will assist in the ease of chemical treatment.

3. Foliar spray- This involves spraying the leaves with a solution of properly labeled herbicide plus a non-ionic surfactant, which improves the chemicals ability to adhere and absorb into the plant. This method should be used during the active growing season so care should be taken to avoid spraying non-target species.



Teasel monoculture after seed dispersal