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Cutleaf Teasel



Figure 1. Common teasel. Photo: Glenn Nice and Nick Harby, Purdue University.



Figure 2. Cutleaf teasel. Photo: <http://www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower/cutleafeasel.html>

You have probably seen common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), in ditches, waste areas and sometimes in our yards (Figure 1.). Common teasel is a pest in many states, on the noxious weed lists of a few states, and on the Federal Invasive Plant List (<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>). What you may not know is that there is another teasel sneaking in to Indiana under the common teasel disguise. Cutleaf teasel (*D. laciniatus*) is another teasel that has been found in Indiana, but not in the numbers of common teasel.

Cutleaf teasel can be distinguished from common teasel by flower color. Common teasel typically has lilac colored flowers and cutleaf teasel has almost white or white flowers (Figure 2.). Figure 3 is a picture of the two plants together. The involucral bracts, the leaves that appear to cradle the egg shaped inflorescence, found in both common and cutleaf teasel tend to be wider in cutleaf teasel. Although if you happen to be looking at one and not the other for comparison it might be difficult to discern which is which unless you have become familiarize with common teasel.

The Indiana Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program is trying to track the occurrence of cutleaf teasel in the state of Indiana. If you should happen to see this invasive plant please contact Glenn Nice at (gnice@purdue.edu). It has presently been found in 5 counties in Indiana (Figure 4).



Figure 3. Cutleaf and common together. Photo: Nick Harby, Purdue University



Figure 4. Distribution map. Photo: IndianaCAPS Program.

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Knowledge to Go

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