

Cutleaf teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*)

Family name: Teasel (Dipsacaceae)

Native range: Europe

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Biennial herb to 6.5' and taller
- Dried stalks and flowers can persist through winter
- Stems prickly along raised ridges



Leaves:

- Opposite, often fused at the base
- Stem leaves lance-shaped and deeply lobed
- Midrib prickly
- First year plant—basal rosette of lobed leaves



Flowers:

- Flowerhead oblong and densely covered in small, white to pale lavender flowers
- Each plant stalk terminates in flowerhead
- 4 petal-like parts
- Surrounded by straight, outwardly spreading bracts—bracts typically not taller than the flower cluster
- Blooms July- August



Fruit:

- Small seeds

Habitat:

- Meadows, roadsides, fens
- Prefers moist ground

Commercial availability: Not found

Look-alikes:

Common Teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*)

- Invasive spiny biennial
- Flowers typically lavender
- Leaves entire
- Bracts at base of flowerhead curl upward, often longer than flowerhead



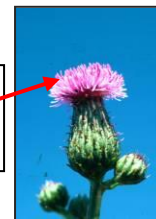
Common teasel has upcurved bracts, longer than flower

Thistle species (*Cirsium* spp.)

- Native and non-native, spiny biennial
- Leaves alternate
- Flowers clustered on disc-shaped flowerhead
- Typically purple to pink



Thistles have a flattened disc-shaped flower



Thistles have downy seeds

Wild Lettuce species (*Lactuca* spp.)

- Native and non-native, spiny biennial
- Leaves alternate
- Milky sap



Wild lettuce leaves are alternate

