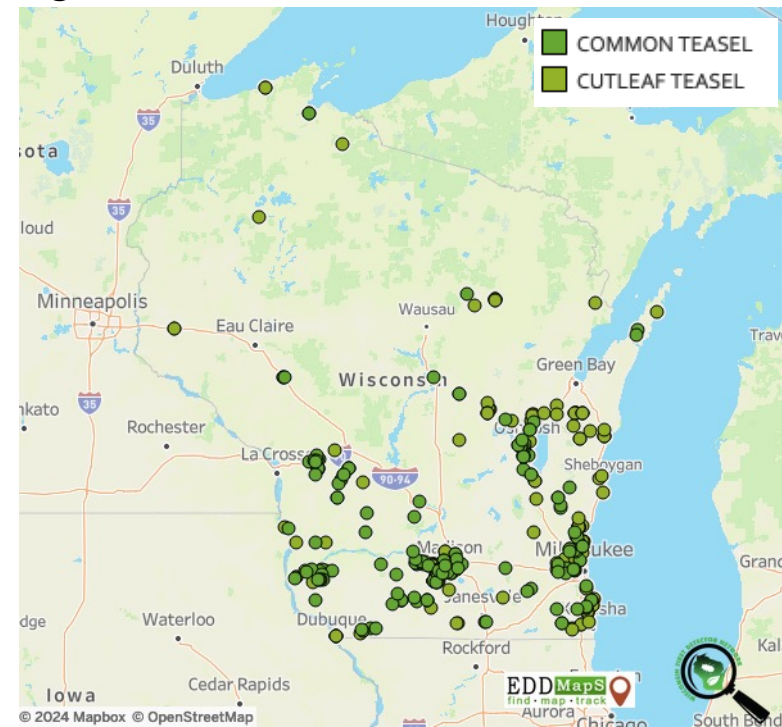


# Teasels (*Dipsacus* spp.)



- Tall, prickly herbs with large leaves fused around the stems; flowers held in elongated cone-like structures.
- Habitats they invade:
  - Roadsides
  - Grasslands
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Restricted
  - Regulated in: IN, MN, MO, OH





# Teasels (*Dipsacus* spp.)



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## *Leaves opposite, simple*

- Leaves up to 1.5' long, spiny below
- Stem leaves are joined to each other at their bases (connate)
- Leaf margins lobed or toothed
- Stems prickly



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# Teasels (*Dipsacus* spp.)



## *Flower/fruit*

- Flowers are small, white, pinkish, or purplish, with 5 fused petals
- Flowers held in a dense, cone-like cluster with spiny bracts below and around each flower; July-Sept.
- Fruit is a tiny, hard achene



# Teasel look alike



The two species of teasel (*Dipsacus* spp.) in Wisconsin can be told apart by their leaves and flowers. They don't closely resemble other plants in the state but could potentially be confused with thistles (*Cirsium* spp.) and plumeless thistles (*Carduus* spp.). Thistles differ most noticeably in having **alternate**, not opposite leaves.



Species	Flowers	Leaves
Cutleaf teasel ( <i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i> )	Flowers <b>white</b> , held in <b>dense, elongated structures with spreading spiny bracts below</b> ; each flower with spines around it	<b>Opposite, deeply lobed</b> , each pair of leaves fused to each other around the stem at their bases
Common teasel ( <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> )	Flowers <b>pale lilac</b> , held in <b>dense elongated structures with spreading spiny bracts below</b> ; each flower with spines around it	<b>Opposite, toothed margins</b> , each pair of leaves fused to each other around the stem at their bases
Thistles ( <i>Cirsium</i> spp.) N,	Flowers <b>pale pink or purplish</b> , held in <b>flat-topped heads closely enveloped below by overlapping bracts</b>	<b>Alternate</b> , lobed, often with spiny margins
Plumeless thistles ( <i>Carduus</i> spp.)	Flowers <b>purplish</b> , held in <b>flat-topped heads closely enveloped below by overlapping bracts</b>	<b>Alternate</b> , lobed, often with spiny margins