

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## Fuller's (common) Teasel (*Dispacus fullonum*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Native to Eurasia and North Africa.
- Herbaceous biennial, 0.5 to 2.0 m tall with a taproot.
- Flowerheads form in cone-shaped, spiny clusters.
- Individual flowers in the cluster consist of white petals united into a tube with four purple lobes.
- Below each flower cluster are several long, slender, stiff bracts that curve upwards surrounding the flowerhead.
- Stems are erect with few branches; stem leaves are lanceolate, simple, and opposite; basal leaves are elliptic-oblong and crenate, up to 40 cm long.
- Short spines form on the leaf surfaces and midveins, especially on the underside of the leaf, on stem ridges becoming denser further up the stem, and on bracts.
- Dead plants become brown and woody, persisting through the winter to the following year.

Cone-shaped flowerhead with long, spiny bracts



Photo: BC Government

**PRIMARY THREATS: Fuller's teasel can form dense colonies that are unpalatable to livestock and reduce forage availability, impede access to recreational sites, and crowd out desired plant species.**

Spines on stems and leaves

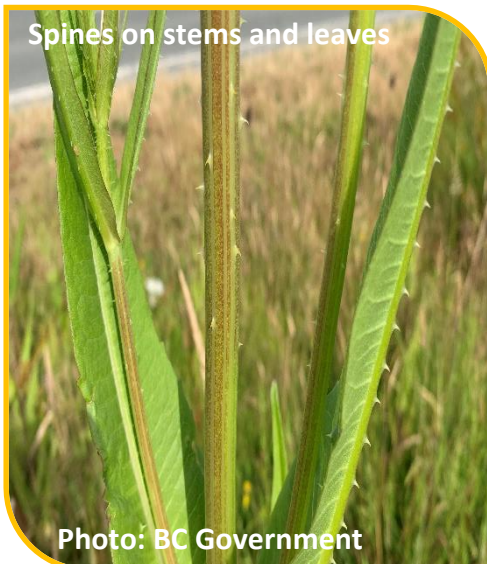


Photo: BC Government

#### BIOLOGY & SPREAD

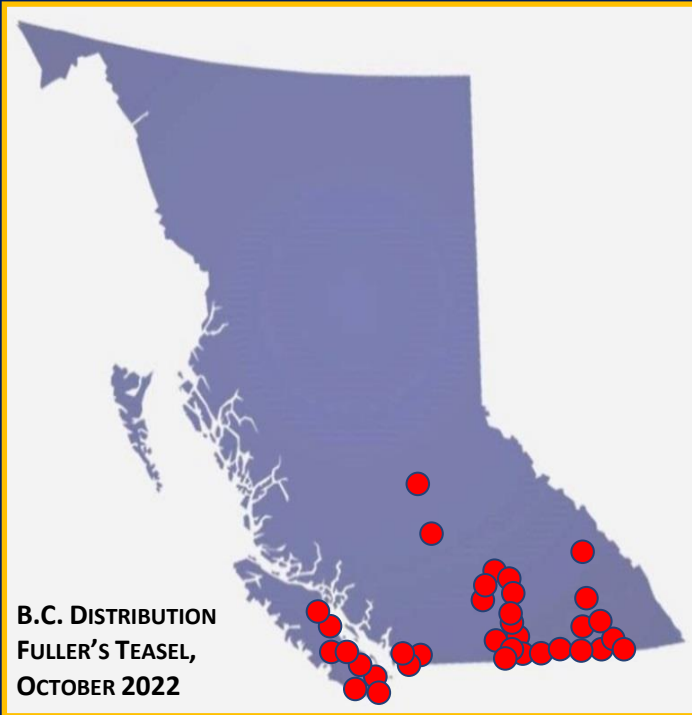
- Reproduces exclusively by seed; A single plant can produce more than 2,000 seeds that can remain viable for at least two years.
- Plants are monocarpic – dying after flowering and seed production.
- Plants grow as a rosette in the first year, bolting and flowering in the second year; seeds are dispersed in the autumn.
- Seeds are spread by mowing, machinery, water and wildlife. Flowers and dried seed heads are sometimes used in floral arrangements.

For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



# Fuller's (common) Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)



## HABITAT

- Fuller's Teasel prefers open, sunny areas with moderately moist soil, but can tolerate both dry and wet conditions. It is often found in riparian areas, meadows, grasslands, savannas, forest edges and openings, and disturbed sites such as roadsides and waste areas.

## DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

- Not a regulated species under the BC *Weed Control Act*.
- Infestations largely concentrated to the southern half of the province, with scattered sites in central BC.
- Management goal is provincial containment – prevent spread from existing sites and eradicate small new sites.

## REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



[www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)



Stand of dead teasel plants

Photo: BC Government



Fuller's Teasel rosette

Photo: BC Government

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Trade** *non-invasive* plants
- **Check** wildflower seed mixes
- **Ensure** potting soil is free of invasive seeds
- **Treat** common teasel before disturbing a site with digging, mowers, or machinery

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>

