

Dipsacus fullonum

COMMON NAMES

wild teasel

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

SIMILAR TAXA

Wild teasel grows to about 1.8 m with elongated dark green leaves and a white midrib. These are joined tightly at the stem opposite to another leaf. The base of the stem itself is square and ridged with spines running along the length but these are particularly noticeable towards the flower head. The seed head is almost conical with sharp spines covering the entire flower surface. These are pale green and they turn wheat brown as the head dies and dries. The narrow and tapering bracts curve around the oval seed head. Small violet-pink flowers appear between the curved bracts in mid to late summer. (Ermert and Clapp 1998)

GENUS

Dipsacus

FAMILY

Dipsacaceae

AUTHORITY

Dipsacus fullonum L.

SYNONYMS

Dipsacus sylvestris Huds.

YEAR NATURALISED

1878

ORIGIN

S., W., and C. Europe, to Ukraine and Iran

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Wild teasel self-seeds quite freely. Wind dispersed.

NVS CODE

DIPFUL

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dipsacus-fullonum/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026



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