

DIPSACACEAE TEASEL FAMILY

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Herbs or rarely shrubs, glabrous or often with multicellular, clavate, or glandular hairs, singular or in small tufts. LEAVES opposite or sometimes whorled, estipulate, simple and entire or toothed to pinnatifid or pinnately dissected, sometimes with spiny margins. INFLORESCENCE a dense, cymose, involucre head with a bracteate, hairy, or naked receptacle, or in axillary verticillasters. FLOWERS perfect, each usually subtended by a cup-like, subentire or apically toothed involucre; calyx small, cup-like, entire or 4-5-lobed or with 10 teeth or pappus-like bristles, rarely lacking; corolla sympetalous, somewhat irregular, 4-5-lobed or 2-lipped; stamens (2-)4, epipetalous, alternate with the lobes exerted, separate; pistil with 2 carpels, but 1 obsolete; ovary inferior, unilocular; style terminal, slender; stigma entire or 2-lobed; ovule solitary. FRUIT an achene, nearly enclosed by the involucre; calyx commonly persistent. --10 genera and about 270 spp., native of Africa and Eurasia.

Dipsacus L. Teasel

Coarse biennial or perennial herbs with prickly stems. LEAVES large, opposite; basal leaves sessile or often petiolate; stem-leaves short-petioled or sessile, often connate. INFLORESCENCE a dense, ovoid to cylindrical head; involucre bract in 1-2 rows, elongate, erect or spreading spine-tipped; receptacular bracts ovate to lanceolate, acuminate, bearing a long, straight or hooked, spiny awn longer than the flowers. FLOWERS: involucre 4-angled, truncate or 4-toothed at the summit, with strong ribs; calyx cup-like at base, 4-lobed above; corollas tubular with 4 unequal lobes; stamens 4; stigma oblique, entire. FRUIT 4-angled, with appressed hairs and persistent calyx. --Ca 15 spp. native to Eur. and the Mediterranean. (Greek *dipsa* = thirst, because the connate leaves of some spp. hold water). *Dipsacus sativus* (L.) Hockey is the cultivated fuller's teasel.

Dipsacus fullonum L. (from Latin *fullo*, a cloth fuller). Wild Teasel. --Stout, taprooted biennial 0.5-2.0 m tall. STEMS angled, furrowed, striate, prickly on the angles, branched above. LEAVES glabrous except for numerous swollen-based prickles on the midrib beneath; basal leaves shortly and inconspicuously petiolate, oblong to oblanceolate, obtuse or acute, entire to crenate, in a rosette, dying early in the second season; cauline leaves lanceolate, sessile, connate at the base forming a cup, 10-30 cm long; lower cauline leaves crenate to serrate; upper leaves entire, often ciliate. INFLORESCENCE an erect, ovoid to cylindrical head, 3-10 cm long, terminating long naked peduncles; involucre bracts prickly, unequal, curving upwards, often surpassing the heads, sometimes foliose but more frequently stiff and narrow; involucre bearing a straight awn. FLOWERS: calyx silky, 1 mm long; corolla slender, pubescent, 10-15 mm long, the tube white, the lobes 1 mm long, purple. FRUIT 5 mm long. [*Dipsacus sylvestris* Huds.; *Dipsacus fullonum* L. subsp. *sylvestris* (Huds.) Claph.]. --Fields and roadsides: Near Humphrey's Peak, Coconino Co.; 2100-2550 m (6900-8400 ft); Jul-Oct. Native of Eur. now a widespread weed in N. Amer.

NOTE

The wild teasel has long been called *D. sylvestris*, the cultivated fuller's teasel *D. fullonum*. Linnaeus (1753) described the wild and cultivated teasels as two varieties of a single species, *D. fullonum*, with the wild species listed first. The cultivated plants were assigned to an unnamed variety β , described as having hooked aristae. Cronquist *et al.* (1984) and Hitchcock *et al.* (1959) both accept the name *D. sylvestris* for the wild species, while admitting that the name should more correctly be *D. fullonum*. Cannon (1976) and Clapham *et al.* (1987), however, use *D. fullonum* to refer to the wild species, *D. sativus* for the cultivated species. The latter terminology is followed here since it is more in agreement with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Greuter *et al.* 1988).

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