

EMERGENCE PATTERN OF CUT-LEAVED TEASEL. George O. Kegode, Assistant Professor, Agriculture Department, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO 64468-6001.

Cut-leaved teasel (*Dipsacacus lacianatus* L.), a monocarpic biennial/perennial, is found in several US states and designated as a noxious weed in Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, and Oregon. Cut-leaved teasel establishes in low maintenance areas, such as roadsides, where mowing is a common method of vegetation management. Cut-leaved teasel is spread primarily by seed and mowing of mature plants facilitates seed dispersal. A study was conducted to evaluate cut-leaved teasel emergence pattern from early and late maturing seed. Cut-leaved teasel seeds were harvested in August and November 2008 from mature inflorescences at six sites of varied disturbance frequency across northwest Missouri. Half of the seeds were stratified at 5 C and the rest kept at room temperature until emergence tests were conducted in early 2009. Stratified and non-stratified seeds were sown in flats containing greenhouse potting mixture, placed in an environment-controlled greenhouse, and seedling emergence monitored for 28 days. Cumulative emergence percentages for August harvested seeds ranged from 64 to 93%. Stratification had no effect on emergence of the August seeds. Emergence of non-stratified cut-leaved teasel seeds harvested in November ranged from 1 to 12%, whereas emergence from stratified seeds ranged from 10 to 48%. Emergence data suggests early maturing cut-leaved teasel seeds lack dormancy, as compared to later maturing seeds. The higher percentage emergence of early-maturing teasel seeds across sites, compared to late maturing seeds suggests early dispersed seeds could potentially germinate, emerge, and produce rosettes that could overwinter and mature during the following growing season.