

TEASEL, tē'z'l (AS. *tæsel*, *tæsl*, OHG. *zeisala*, teasel, from AS. *tæsan*, Bavarian Ger. *zaisen*, to tease wool), *Dipsacus*. A genus of plants of the family Dipsacaceæ. The only valuable species is the fuller's or clothier's teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), a native of southern Europe,



TEASEL (*Dipsacus sylvestris*).

naturalized in the United States. It is a biennial, several feet high, with sessile serrated leaves, prickly stems and leaves, and with cylindrical heads of pale or white flowers, between which are oblong, hook-pointed, acuminate, rigid bracts. The plant is cultivated for the heads, which are cut off when in flower, and are used for raising the nap of cloth, a purpose for which no mechanical contrivance has been found to equal them. The split heads are fixed on the circumference of a cylinder, which is made to revolve against the surface of the cloth. The wild teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*), from which fuller's teasel is supposed to have originated, has straight instead of hooked prickles on the heads. It is a common and troublesome weed in some parts of the United States.