

# *Ricky's Gardening Tips and Tricks* **and Home Horticulture**

July 2021 Issue

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**Ricky's Gardening Tips and Tricks and Home Horticulture** is an online newsletter designed to provide citizens of Allen County and northeastern Indiana with up-to-date information about Horticulture and home issues, written in a lighthearted style! To subscribe, send an email to [kemeryr7@frontier.com](mailto:kemeryr7@frontier.com).

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## **Shoo Fly Don't Bother Me** Compiled and revised from Texas A & M University

Some folks on social media sites this year have discussed the overabundance of flies in and around the landscape and garden – making their way into homes. It is a drag when flies end up in the house – almost as bad as the one lone mosquito that buzzes around your ear late at night when you are trying to sleep.

There are different types of flies that can be a nuisance in and around the home.

**House flies** are outdoor flies that do not bite. They are generally not an important indoor pest unless doors or windows are poorly screened or frequently left open.



House Fly: Grayish black with four black stripes on the thorax.

House flies breed in decaying organic matter such as livestock feces and garbage. They are active on warm days year around but reproduce most quickly in the summer. At 60 °F it takes a house fly about 45 days to go through its life cycle; at 95 °F that time is shortened to 7 days. Adult house flies live for up to three weeks.

House flies are not only a nuisance; they are thought to carry more than 100 diseases. Because house flies continuously deposit feces and regurgitate on surfaces, health departments consider their presence in restaurants or other food service businesses to be unsanitary. I can imagine a restaurant sign: NO SHOES NO SHIRT NO SERVICE (*also, continuously depositing feces and constant regurgitation prohibited*).

House flies can migrate as far as 20 miles, but most stay within ½ to 1 miles of their breeding site. When house flies become a problem outside of a structure, look for nearby breeding sites including livestock or compost operations, improperly functioning latrines, and poorly maintained dumpsters or garbage cans. Household compost piles that are not properly managed may also become a source of house fly breeding.

To me, it is uncanny how a housefly can somehow sense when you pick up a flyswatter. They might have been hanging out on a counter or in a window – when you even begin to pick up the flyswatter – they run for cover.

Houseflies rest on floors, walls, and ceilings during the day. Outdoors, they will rest on plants, the ground, fence wires, garbage cans, etc. Night resting places are usually near sources of food and are 5 to 15 feet off the ground.

House flies are major carriers of disease. They are known to transfer over 100 pathogens resulting in ailments, including typhoid, tuberculosis, cholera, and dysentery.



**Figure 8.** Blow flies are normally outdoor flies, but will enter homes to lay eggs on dead rodents, birds or other carrion.

**Carrion flies** include flesh flies and blow flies. Immature stages of blow flies feed on decaying organic material—especially dead animals but also garbage, manure, or other rotting plant material. Blow fly larvae are creamy white and legless. Blow and flesh fly larvae are cylindrical and taper to a pointed head. The presence of these larvae in a home usually indicates that a bird, squirrel, rat, etc., has died somewhere in the structure. Wonderful..

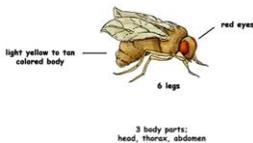
Adult blowflies are shiny blue or green and are 1/4 to 7/16 inches long. Flesh flies are large (3/8 to 5/8 in) and gray with black stripes on the thorax. The tip of the abdomen is red or pink in some species.



**Figure 7.** Flesh flies are large gray flies that occasionally enter homes when attracted by the odor of a dead animal in an attic, chimney, or wall. (Photo by Salvador Vitanza)

Blow flies and flesh flies that are constantly found indoors indicate a home that is poorly sealed against wildlife. The house should be inspected for any openings where birds or mammals might enter. These types of flies can also invade homes from outdoor areas if doors are left open for periods of time or windows or doors are not screened properly.

**Fruit Fly**  
*Drosophila melanogaster*



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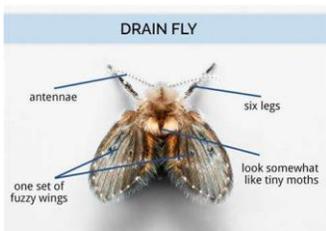
©Sheri Amsel

If you have been seeing small flies or gnats in your kitchen, they're probably **fruit flies**. Fruit flies can be a problem year-round but are especially common during late summer/fall because they are attracted to ripened or fermenting fruits and vegetables. Tomatoes, melons, squash, grapes, and other perishable items brought in from the garden are often the cause of an infestation developing indoors. Fruit flies are also attracted to rotting bananas, potatoes, onions, and other unrefrigerated produce purchased at the grocery store. An adult female fruit fly can lay up to 2,000 eggs on the surface of anything that's moist and rotting.

Within 30 hours, tiny maggots hatch and start to eat the decayed food. Within 2 days, they're all grown up and ready to mate. While that transition may seem quick, a fruit fly only lives 8 to 15 days. Research shows that fruit flies can transfer germs from a dirty surface onto a clean one. Some of the bacteria they may carry include salmonella, E. coli, and listeria. These three germs each cause food poisoning. Getting rid of any ripening vegetables or fruit and checking a home indoor composting bin will help. Cleaning any drains, garbage disposals and sump pump drains can also help. Putting out traps to lure adults can help and determine exactly where the problem is.



Fruit fly trap made from a jar and a paper funnel. Bait with cider vinegar or slice of banana.



**Drain Flies** can also infect homes and drive folks crazy trying to figure out where they are coming from. Sump pump drains and or seldom used toilets can sometimes be the culprit. Garbage disposals are often overlooked because some folks don't consider them "drains".

**Fungus gnats** can also drive folks crazy. I have argued with many folks who refuse to believe the gnats come from houseplants. The larvae of fungus gnats are the real issues, because they feed on the organic matter in many potting mixes. Watering less often can help. An organic product called "Knock Out Gnats" will take care of the larvae.



The key any indoor fly problem is to find and eliminate the source, that is, anywhere excess moisture and organic debris may have accumulated. Moisture is critical for fly breeding. Fly larvae cannot breed without some source of water, so look for areas with moisture. To check whether a drain is a breeding site, place a length of clear packing tape across the drain without totally covering the opening. If you cover the opening completely, there will be no airflow and flies may not emerge. Check the tape periodically. If you see flies stuck to the tape, you have found a source of infestation.

# Serenade



Unfortunately, Serenade as we have known it, is no longer available in the ready-to-use form in the red and yellow bottle. Bayer Inc., the huge German petrochemical company that purchased the rights to sell glyphosate (Round-UP) apparently has purchased Serenade - the bio fungicide I recommended as an organic alternative to control many fungal and a few bacterial diseases of vegetables and fruit.

Bayer concentrates on products for the commercial industry, so the product is sold in larger quantities, and is of course more expensive. One place that offers Serenade concentrate is Seven Springs Farm. A 2.5-gallon container (enough to probably spray 20,000 tomato plants) will cost you \$96.00



**Organic Farming & Gardening Supplies  
& Community Supported Agriculture**

Serenade ASO- 2.5  
Gallon



Ironically, this is about the same price one can still purchase the “old” Serenade on E-BAY.

I am sure those will not last long. Sigh. Good things never last.



## Birds Mysteriously Dying

I am sure many of you have seen the headlines about thousands of birds that are mysteriously dying in the East and Midwest. The folks at the IDNR (Indiana Dept. Of Natural Resources) recommend that citizens quit feeding birds that might gather at feeders and transmit whatever is sickening them. Citizens should also remove birdbaths or clean them frequently. Possible causes of the deaths include birds eating cicadas that have been sprayed with pesticide, some sort of virus (Possibly West Nile virus?) , and of course – the weather. Really, it appears no one has a clue as to why this is occurring. Well, some folks on social media blame 5-G cell towers or alien lizard people.

Some other **good news** however on the bird front. Thumper and Thelma have relinquished their parental duties as their three baby robins have now left the nest. I am sure parental depression, and a possible divorce will follow. Hope everyone will be OK.

# A Zucchini Story

**Ricky's note:** I wrote this story at least 15 years ago and still find it amusing. There is always someone you know that wants to dump excess zucchini to everyone they know.

Bob and Marge loved zucchini so much that they grew loads and loads in their garden and every day they would eat zucchini bread, zucchini salad, zucchini and dip—you get the drift.

Bob and Marge always had more than enough zucchini to give away to their neighbors and friends. For example, when Bob went to play golf, he always took zucchini for his golfing buddies. There was always enough for the folks at the Moose Lodge and the Kiwanis club.

Marge would take zucchini to her friends at the garden club and her quilting club. In fact, Bob and Marge had so much zucchini growing in their garden that they got in the habit of leaving sacks of the fruits at their neighbor's houses. Well, they actually over time began leaving fruit at all of their neighbors within the city limits. Surely everyone must want the wonderful zucchini they had worked so hard to grow.

One day Marge came home from her quilting club with a puzzled expression on her face. "What's wrong, Marge?" Bob remarked. "It's strange," said Marge sadly, "there wasn't anyone at the quilting club meeting today." "Well, perhaps you got the date wrong," said Bob.

Bob, however, was very perplexed when he arrived at the Country Cub on Thursday and found not one of his golfing buddies was present. He left a load of zucchini for the greens keeper and returned home. Over the next week, Bob and Marge found that no one seemed to be attending the clubs and meetings they regularly attended. Puzzled, they left their gifts of zucchini and returned home.

The next day Bob and Marge were startled by the town newspaper headline, which read as follows: *County Landfill Overloaded!!* Pleasant Valley landfill authorities have closed the Pleasant county landfill until further notice due to the fact that tremendous amounts of zucchini are being dumped at the landfill, authorities remarked. One employee, who asked not to be named, said "We don't know why or how this problem is happening but there is zucchini, horrible yellow and green zucchini, everywhere and we have no more room."

The next day's headline read: *County Board Bans Zucchini!* The Pleasant Valley town council unanimously passed an ordinance today banning the growing and use of zucchini and zucchini-related products by anyone within the city limits. "It was a tough step to take," one councilwoman remarked, "but this burgeoning problem has the potential to destroy every man, woman and child on this planet."

The following Tuesday this article appeared in the Pleasant Valley Times violations section of the newspaper: *Couple Deported!* Bob and Marge Gourd from 2323 Pleasant Valley Drive, were deported to the island of Greenland on Tuesday, reported the Pleasant Valley Department of Immigration. "We just had no other choice," an unnamed authority remarked. "We chose Greenland because we believe that it is virtually impossible to grow zucchini there." "Authorities did confiscate 31 pounds of zucchini seeds hidden in the couple's suitcases," an airport security guard said.

10,000 Pleasant Valley residents were at the airport to make sure they were actually leaving. A town celebration (with fireworks) followed the couple's departure.

# Not-So- Nice Members of the Parsley Family

Some material from US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Apiaceae (which translates to celery or parsley family), or in old school terminology, the Umbelliferae (named for the shape of the seed head in this family, which resembles an umbrella), This plant family includes carrots, celery, celeriac, parsnips, and many of our commonly used herbs, including parsley, cilantro/coriander, dill, cumin, anise, fennel, caraway, chervil and lovage. This family also includes the famous deadly poisonous hemlock and water hemlock, so this is one you want to be 100% sure of your identification if you are out foraging. I have thought about “foraging” some orange day lilies from a ditch somewhere out in the middle of nowhere - where no one would notice my “foraging’ activity... wink..



The easiest way to identify members of the Parsley family is when plants are in bloom. They all share a “compound umbel” shape. Umbel simply means that the stems holding each flower all meet at one central point, like the center of the ribs of an umbrella. Compound means that at the end of each of these flower stems, there is a second “umbel”, and at the end of each of THOSE stems you’ll find the actual flower. The many flowered “head” tends to be flat to dome shaped. If you’re a plant nerd and you look really closely, parsley family’s tiny flowers have 5 sepals, 5 petals and 5 stamens.

Queen Anne’s lace is a classic member of the Parsley Family. Notice the umbels that make up the flowers. Queen Anne’s Lace is thought to be the ancestor of the modern carrot.

Queen Anne’s lace is native to Asia and Europe, but invasive in North America. If you have sensitive skin, contact with Queen Anne’s lace may cause skin irritation. Others may not experience any negative interactions. Before you consider handling this plant, make sure you’re positive that it’s not one of the similar-looking poisonous species listed above. This plant typically measures one to two feet tall and sometimes has a small reddish coloration in the center. Stems are fuzzy with small grooves.

Plants in this family are also well known to attract beneficial insects, providing a flat landing pad, and serving up pollen and nectar for a host of good guys you want in your garden. Larval forms of several butterflies, including swallowtails, feed on the plants.

Many of the plants are biennial, meaning they are vegetative the first year, grow taller from the ground-level foliage called a rosette - and then go to seed the second year.

Many of these species in the Parsley family occur in wetlands or ditches and within this group are a small group of tall and coarse herbs that are dangerously toxic to humans. Some are very similar in appearance to harmless or even edible species and this confusion has led to tragic outcomes for humans. The toxic species discussed here are widely distributed and, in suitable habitat, common in temperate North America or in Europe. This year, there are reports that poison hemlock populations have increased. Evidently the weather this year has been favorable for the development of these plants.

The common names for these species are often as confusing as the plants themselves, underscoring the need to use scientific nomenclature when possible. “Parsnip” has long been applied to several species, poisonous or not. Furthermore, members of two genera (Cicuta and Conium) share the common name “hemlock” but the plants are not at all related to the hemlock tree (*Tsuga canadensis*).



**Giant Hogweed** is native to the Caucasus and southwest Asia. It was introduced into New York state in 1917 and has presently escaped to 16 states in the Northeastern United States plus Illinois, Oregon, and Washington state. It’s also found in eastern Canada, British Columbia, and



Alaska. The plant is occasionally planted as a yard ornamental in recognition of its impressive size; however, it is on the noxious plant list in many states making it unlawful to propagate, sell or transport. The plant is huge, reaching up to 17’ in height. All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested or even touched, as the sap contains furanocoumarins which in the presence of sunlight cause severe and long-lasting dermatitis. Its Giant, a Hog, and a Weed – not a good combination.

**Poison hemlock** is native to Europe, Africa, and Asia, but invasive in North America. All parts of this



plant are highly poisonous to people and animals. Ingestion of even small amounts may result in death. This plant typically measures three to eight feet tall and has stems that are hairless and hollow with ridges and purple spots. It is often found in roadside ditches, abandoned pastures, or woodland edges.



Poison hemlock was originally introduced as a garden plant in the U.S. which has since become established in most of North America. Its stems are usually spotted with purplish blotches and its leaves are finely dissected and fern-like - suggesting parsley. The lethal properties of poison-hemlock have long been known and a potion made from its roots presumably was taken by Socrates to commit suicide. The poisonous alkaloid coniine is found in all tissues of the plants but concentrated in the

seeds. The presence of coniine in poison hemlock results in a very pungent foul odor when the plant is cut or damaged. I can smell the rank odor of this plant from 10 feet away.



**Water hemlock** is widespread and native to North America. Water

hemlock is often called the deadliest plant in North America – deadlier than poison hemlock!. All parts of this plant are highly toxic to people and animals. Ingestion may cause abdominal pain, convulsions, delirium, nausea, seizures, and vomiting - often resulting in death. This plant typically measures three to six feet tall and has stems that are smooth and hollow. Stems may vary in color and pattern, from solid green or purple to green with purple spots or stripes.



Water-hemlock grows wild from eastern Canada to the southern Appalachians west to Texas and the Dakotas. Water hemlock has leaves much different than its cousin poison hemlock. Small white flowers are aggregated into flat-topped clusters as is typical of the family. Its roots (actually fleshy, finger-like tubers extending out from the base of the stem) smell and taste like parsnips

.A lethal dose can result from eating a single tuber of water-hemlock. As little as a 2 cm (0.8”) section of the root can produce fatal results in children and perhaps adults. The use of a stem as a toy whistle was fatal to a child.



**Cow parsnip** is native to North America. It is listed as endangered in Kentucky and a species of special concern in

Tennessee. Contact with cow parsnip may cause skin irritation,



blistering rashes and skin discoloration. This plant can measure four to ten feet tall and has stems that are fuzzy and grooved.



**Wild parsnip** is native to Asia and Europe, but invasive in North America. It is a common plant found in ditches along roadsides. Yellow flowers help differentiate this species, but the effects are similar. Contact with wild parsnip may cause skin irritation, blistering rashes and skin discoloration. This plant typically measures two to five feet tall and has stems that are hairless and grooved. Even though there are some sources that list the root of this plant

as edible, most credible sources recommend staying away from this plant.

## **Cedar Oil For Pest Control** Adapted from *Gardenerdy*

Cedar mulch can be used around the house as a natural way to keep fleas, ants, mites, and other insects at bay. The chips are also effective in repelling termites, rodents, scorpions, spiders, and snakes. I like cedar mulch because it does not decompose as rapidly as other mulches, smells nice, and “weird” mushrooms that can grow in bark mulch do not grow as easily in cedar mulch.

Part of the issue here is again the use of the common name cedar. There are two types of cedar in the U.S.. One type of cedar comes from arborvitae (*Thuja* sp.) - either from the eastern U.S. or Pacific Northwest. Other cedar

used for mulch comes from Eastern-Red Cedar (*Juniperus* sp.), which is a member of the Jumper family. Neither plant is related to a true cedar, which grows in the Middle East.

Not as much is known about cedar extract sprays that are used in the garden and landscape to kill or repel pests. Some folks on social media recommend cutting a piece of cedar log – soak it in water for a few days – strain the mix, and then spray in and around the landscape and garden (Or on yourself) to kill or repel garden pests such as aphids, beetles, or even critters such as rabbits.

However, there is some evidence that prolonged exposure to cedar can cause or aggravate asthma, rhinitis, or conjunctivitis in humans as well as animals. The respiratory condition arising from cedar exposure is termed as Cedar asthma. Phenols and aromatic hydrocarbons present in cedar chips are known to cause respiratory problem and dermatitis in animals (especially guinea pigs and rodents). The shavings can cause allergies in young pigs.

Amazon sells a cedar oil extract for use in the landscape and garden. The product has a 4.7 rating in reviews. and is advertised as “Cedarcide Original” made of naturally derived and non-toxic ingredients that are safe to use **on and around your family and pets**. “This formula will kill and repel fleas, ticks, ants, mites, and mosquitoes in all stages of life. From egg to adult.” “You can finally ditch those bug sprays that leave a toxic residue and smell in the air and trade it in for a woody, fresh scent while fighting off pests.”

One reviewer wrote: “This stuff does NOT Work! I was wanting something healthier for my family, so I purchased this product. I literally sprayed myself all over. Not 60 seconds in the garden and I was attacked by mosquitos. The only thing this repelled was my husband after he got a whiff of me.“ Well.....

## Oriole Update:

I now have two pairs of orioles visiting my oriole feeder in the backyard. As long as the grape jelly inventory at the grocery store remains stable, the orioles will continue to delight me and visitors to my garden.



# Ragweed



Recently, I drove past a recently disturbed site completely filled with ragweed. It appears that this year will be a good year (unlike previous years) for ragweed to flourish. Common ragweed is a widespread and common summer annual, native to the U.S, and is the main late-summer allergen in the US. Interestingly, it is not native to Canada. It can be identified by its alternate, fern-like leaves, bushy habit, innocuous green flowers at the ends of its branches in late summer, and medicinal smell. Common ragweed was one of the first weeds to develop herbicide resistance,

This plant has allelopathic (toxic) properties that inhibit the growth and development of neighboring plants. It is not a “nice” plant. It produces a huge amount of pollen in the fall, afflicting millions of people who have allergies.



Ragweed produces numerous seeds, which remain viable for 5 years or much more. These seeds are easily dispersed by wind, water, and birds, burrowing animals, and humans. It is resistant to drought and grows in many soil types and under adverse conditions.

Hand-pull before plants flower or go to seed, release pollen, and spread seeds in late summer. It is easy to pull. Bag any plants you pull and send them to Canada. Because it spreads via seed, efforts to keep common ragweed from spreading should focus on preventing seed production.

Ragweed is responsible for hay fever. But because common ragweed is rather unremarkable, goldenrod (which blooms at the same time) is often blamed for causing hay fever when ragweed is the real culprit.

Although the name hay fever alludes to the "haying" season in the fall, people often refer to allergies experienced at any time of year as hay fever. Try to minimize your outdoor activities when the pollen count is highest, which is generally between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. This practice won't eliminate your hay fever, but it can lessen the severity of the symptoms.



Giant ragweed is Common Ragweed's dysfunctional sibling and causes the same allergies

# Top Performers In My Backyard Garden Photos by Gwendra Turney



The weather conditions this year have resulted in my backyard looking like a lush jungle. The plants – along with weeds - have done well. As my woodland sprite (given to me by Master Gardeners Dave and Nina Thierer) guards a container filled with gold coleus and a new bright red/orange lantana – here is a list of some top performers so far.

**“Wichita Mountain Form” Bee Balm** (right) was selected from a native population of bee balm in

the central U.S.. Its color is definitely more intense than the light lavender of most native bee balms. Available from High Country Gardens



**“New Vintage Violet” Yarrow** (left) attracts pollinators and is more compact and appears to be tougher than other colored yarrows I have tried. Also from High Country gardens.



A Breadseed Poppy that re-seeded from last year.



This year I decided to seed areas with blue forget-me-not seed. I obtained the seed from Outsidepride. Again, superb germination rates. Hopefully, the seed that drops from this annual/biennial will drop and germinate next year.



High County gardens also offered a zinnia seed mix for a very reasonable price for a ¼ pound of seed. It came nicely packaged in a cute burlap bag.

# Mosquitos From Web MD

I expect mosquito populations to be high this year. If you live in an area that is heavy with mosquitoes or you are prone to bites, repellents containing higher concentrations (23.8%) of DEET or picaridin offer the best protection. Although it may be unsettling to apply chemical repellents to your skin, it may be better than the alternative -- being bitten by potentially disease-carrying bugs.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus is a natural, plant-based oil. It works as well at preventing mosquito bites as products that contain lower concentrations (6.65%) of DEET. PMD is a version of oil of lemon eucalyptus that is produced in a lab. Repellents containing OLE or PMD may provide up to 2 hours of protection. Geraniol (found in citronella, lemongrass, and rose oil). can help keep mosquitoes at bay for a short while, but they don't work as long or as well as other types of repellents.

Catnip oil may offer mosquito protection for 7 hours, according to the EPA. You will also be extremely popular to every cat in the neighborhood. Cinnamon oil .has been shown to help make you a bit less attractive to mosquitoes for up to an hour and a half, which is longer than many other natural oil repellents..

IR3535 was used for years in Europe before being registered by the EPA. It may offer up to 2 hours of mosquito protection. IR3535 is considered "natural" because it is structurally related to a naturally occurring chemical.

2-undecanone is derived from the tomato plant and may offer 4½ hours of protection from mosquitoes. It can be found in some insect repellents.

Nootkatone oil is made from grapefruit skin and cedar trees has been approved by the EPA as an ingredient in insecticides. It has been found to repel and kill many biting insects, including mosquitoes. Studies show it can give several hours of protection.

Many other natural ingredients are currently being studied as mosquito repellent. These include:

Fennel, Thyme, Clove oil, Celery extract, and Neem oil. Garlic and vitamin B1 taken by mouth won't protect against mosquitoes, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## Teasel

If you are driving around the city and county, you might notice large amounts of teasel in bloom at the moment. Teasel is native to Europe. It was introduced to North America possibly as early as the 1700s. The teasel was the teasing plant of the early cloth makers, hence one of its names is 'brushes and combs', which refers to the use of the dried heads (held in wooden frames) to comb the cloth and to raise the 'nap'. This particular job was done by fullers - hence the Latin name *Dipsacus fullonum*. Another name for the teasel is Venus' basin - this refers to the water that collects in the base of the leaves. Folklore says that such rainwater had healing properties.



Common teasel is also commonly used in flower arrangements which has aided its dispersal, especially to cemeteries. Cut-leaved teasel (a close relative of common teasel) was introduced with common teasel or introduced accidentally with other plant material from Europe.

Teasel has spread rapidly in the U.S. in the last 20 to 30 years, spreading from Quebec and Maine to Ontario and Michigan, then south to North Carolina, Tennessee, and Missouri. Teasel has colonized many areas along interstates.

A single teasel plant can produce more than 2,000 seeds. Depending on conditions, up to 30 to 80 percent of the seeds will germinate, so each plant can produce many offspring. Seeds also can remain viable for at least two years. Seeds typically don't disperse far; most seedlings will be located around the parent plant. Parent plants often provide an optimal nursery site for new teasel plants after the adult dies. Dead adult plants leave a relatively large area of bare ground, formerly occupied by their own basal leaves, that new plants readily occupy. Seeds may have the capacity to be water-dispersed, which may allow seeds to be dispersed over longer distances. Immature seed heads of cut-leaved teasel are even capable of producing viable seed.

If left unchecked, - which it normally is - teasel quickly can form large monocultures excluding all native vegetation. Cut-leaved teasel is more aggressive than common teasel and has severely threatened areas in the East and Midwest.

Mowing is ineffective because the root crown will re-sprout and flower after being cut. Even repeated mowing is ineffective. Repeated mowing will stop some plants from flowering, but others will produce short flowering stems that may be short enough to be below the height of the mower. Plants that have been knocked over by a mower and not cut off will lie horizontally and produce short flowering stalks below the height of the mower.

Cutting off the flower stalks at flowering time and leaving the flowering heads has been shown to be ineffective. Viable seeds can still develop from the cut stems. Prescribed burning alone is also ineffective. If you own a large tract of land where teasel is invading, herbicides are probably your best option.



## Hoggles – Demented Cat Logic

To my caregiver: I have recently hired (at your expense) a pre-taster of my cat food in case you get the bright idea of lacing my food with hemlock to get rid of me. I cannot understand why-as I have served you faithfully over the years with little demands . So, make room for Larry my taster cat – and make suitable arrangements in case of his demise....



Larry – May he live long and prosper

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