

Cucurbita maxima (pumpkin), native to America, is a roughly-hairy herb with stems to several metres long and large leaves, flowers and fruit. Spring to summer flowering. Occasionally found naturalised in rubbish dumps or along roadsides. [NSW, Qld]

Ecballium elaterium (squirting cucumber), native to the Mediterranean region and south-west Asia, is a trailing herb with rough stems and no tendrils. Leaves (4–7 cm long) are triangular to oval, rough-hairy above, white-woolly below. Flowers are bell-shaped, yellow and deeply lobed. Fruit (2–5 cm long) is egg-shaped, bristly and juicy. Summer to autumn flowering. A weed of railways, roadsides and disturbed sites. [NSW, Vic, Tas, SA, Qld]

DIPSACACEAE

A family of herbs, rarely shrubs, consisting of 11 genera (two in Australia) and about 350 species.

Dipsacus fullonum* subsp. *fullonum (wild teasel), native to Europe and western Asia, is an erect, thistle-like biennial herb with prickly stems to 2 m high. Leaves (to 40 cm long) are oppositely arranged, lance-shaped and often fused at their base in pairs, prickly on the midrib below, sometimes toothed. Flowers are purplish to white and numerous in cylindrical spiny heads (2–8 cm long) surrounded by long, spiny modified leaves (involucral bracts). Fruit is dry, four-angled and one-seeded. Mostly summer flowering. A weed of pasture, roadsides, streamsides and other disturbed sites. [NSW, Vic, Tas, SA]

Scabiosa atropurpurea (pincushion, scabiosa), native to the Mediterranean region, is an erect herb to 1 m high. Leaves (to 12 cm long) are oppositely arranged, oblong to lance-shaped, often toothed, smaller and deeply divided up the stems. Flowers are white to dark purple in many-flowered inflorescences which are rounded in flower, oval (1–4 cm long) in fruit. Fruit is dry, ribbed and one-seeded. Mostly spring to summer flowering. Naturalised along roadsides and other disturbed sites. [NSW, Vic, Tas, SA]



Ecballium elaterium developing fruit (left)

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Dipsacus fullonum subsp. *fullonum*

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Scabiosa atropurpurea fruiting head (left)

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