































THE TOP 30 WEEDS

AND HOW TO ID THEM

	<p>ANNUAL SOW THISTLE (<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>) Spreads much like dandelion. Hoe at juvenile stage, hand-pull before it goes to seed or treat with post-emergent herbicide.</p>		<p>NUTSEDGE (<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>) AKA nutgrass, because it resembles grass. Often found in moist areas, signifying poor drainage. Use nutsedge killer or hand-dig small patches, removing all tubers.</p>
	<p>BLACK MEDIC (<i>Medicago lupulina</i>) A sign of poor, nitrogen-deficient soil. Apply broadleaf herbicide or hand-pull.</p>		<p>PIGWEED (<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>) Often grows in disturbed soil. Seeds and leaves considered nutritious. Hand-pull or hoe before it flowers or sets seed.</p>
	<p>BROADLEAF PLANTAIN (<i>Plantago major</i>) A sign of poor soil; prevent with a lush, regularly aerated lawn. Remove with a dandelion fork or broadleaf herbicide in spring or fall.</p>		<p>POISON IVY (<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>) Contains urushiol, which produces an allergic rash in most, not all, people. Use systemic herbicide or hand-pull (with protection).</p>
	<p>BURDOCK (<i>Arctium spp.</i>) Resembles rhubarb. Hand-dig; roots are easy to pull – and sometimes made into a tea or eaten as you would a parsnip.</p>		<p>PROSTRATE SPURGE (<i>Euphorbia maculata</i>) Mat-forming annual, often found in poorly maintained lawns or sidewalk cracks. Treatment includes broadleaf herbicide, hand removal and boiling water.</p>
	<p>CANADA THISTLE (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) Despite the name, actually native to Europe. Broadleaf herbicide and regular mowing prevent seed formation.</p>		<p>PUNCTUREVINE (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>) AKA Devil's Vine, prickly burs attach to shoes, pants and pets and can cut feet and even puncture bike tires. Use a broadleaf herbicide.</p>
	<p>CHICKWEED (<i>Stellaria media</i>) A moisture- and shade-loving annual that withstands mowing. Use broadleaf herbicide; hand-pulling only works if you get all roots.</p>		<p>PURSLANE (<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>) A weed of summer, appears in hot, dry weather and spreads wherever stems touch bare soil. Use broadleaf herbicide or hand-pull.</p>
	<p>COMMON GROUNDSEL (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>) Toxic to humans and animals. Hoe juvenile plants or hand-pull before it goes to seed, or use a broadleaf herbicide.</p>		<p>QUACKGRASS (<i>Elymus repens</i>) AKA witch grass, couch grass and quick grass, because it spreads rapidly. Spot treat with grass killer or smother with dark plastic.</p>
	<p>COMMON MALLOW (<i>Malva neglecta</i>) Hoe or hand-pull when young. Don't confuse with ornamental Mallow, an attractive short-lived perennial.</p>		<p>RAGWEED (<i>Ambrosia spp.</i>) One plant can release a billion pollen grains, making it a key culprit of "hay fever season." Use broadleaf herbicide or dig before going to seed.</p>
	<p>CRABGRASS (<i>Digitaria spp.</i>) Pioneer in patchy lawns. Dies each winter, but seeds produced all summer sprout the following spring. Use crabgrass killer (mature plants) and preventer (seeds).</p>		<p>ROUGH CINQUEFOIL (<i>Potentilla norvegica</i>) Weedy cousin to the cultivated potentilla; thrives in thin, nutrient-deficient soils. Spot treat with broadleaf herbicide or hand-pull when young.</p>
	<p>CURLY DOCK (<i>Rumex crispus</i>) Seed can remain viable in soil for 80 years. Use broadleaf herbicide; any remaining fragments of its long taproot will sprout.</p>		<p>SANDBUR (<i>Cenchrus spp.</i>) Prefers sun and sand. Burs cling to clothes and prick skin. Mow regularly to keep seeds from forming; use crabgrass killer on established plants.</p>
	<p>DANDELION (<i>Taraxacum spp.</i>) Originally imported as a flower. Tender young leaves used in salads. Remove with dandelion fork, or kill with broadleaf herbicide.</p>		<p>SHEEP SORREL (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>) Foliage is edible, though high in oxalic acid, which can be toxic to kidneys in large quantities. Hand-pull or spot treat with broadleaf herbicide.</p>
	<p>FIELD BINDWEED (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>) A relative of the morning glory vine. Use broadleaf herbicide; any fragment of its deep roots will sprout.</p>		<p>SHEPHERD'S PURSE (<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>) Seedpods said to resemble leather purses carried by shepherds in the Middle Ages. Use broadleaf herbicide or hand-pull.</p>
	<p>GROUND IVY (<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>) AKA Creeping Charlie, a member of the aggressive mint family. Easily infiltrates home landscapes. Use a broadleaf herbicide; the smallest piece of root stem resprouts.</p>		<p>STINGING NETTLE (<i>Urtica dioica</i>) Named for the tiny daggers felt if you grasp leaves. Medicinal; used as a diuretic and laxative by ancient Greeks. Treat with systemic herbicide.</p>
	<p>JAPANESE KNOTWEED (<i>Fallopia japonica</i> or <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>) Invasive and aggressive. Can crowd out native plants and force its way through concrete. Use Glyphosate; repeated applications may be necessary.</p>		<p>WHITE CLOVER (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) Originally welcomed into American lawns. A key nectar source for honeybees and can distract rabbits from garden browsing. Use broadleaf herbicide.</p>
	<p>LAMB'S QUARTERS (<i>Chenopodium album</i>) Can be cooked or added raw to salads. Easily pulled by hand when young.</p>		<p>YELLOW WOODSORREL (<i>Oxalis stricta</i>) Its burgundy-leaf cousin, Oxalis triangularis, is a popular houseplant. Common in dry, open locations. Use broadleaf herbicide.</p>