

GROUND IVY

Ground ivy is a non-native, creeping perennial which likes moist soil and partial shade. It can be found in lawns and flowerbeds. It forms mats since roots can form at

each node. Ground ivy performs well in cold climates. It is a relative of mint and is an invasive spreader.

The leaves are nearly round and have scalloped edges. Small plantlets grow from trailing stems and roots develop beneath each one. The leaves are opposite. Stems are square. It has blue/violet flowers which appear in small clusters in late spring. These produce 4 triangular seeds. Ground ivy spreads by seed and creeping stems which go outward 30 inches or more.

Control

Pull up all stems and allow to totally dry out. Mowing will not help as they will just emerge from the stems left behind. If



your pulling out causes bare spots in the lawn, reseed these areas with turf grass that will quickly occupy that area. Continue pulling out the ground ivy once a month all summer and the following year. This takes persistence. But will work.

SMARTWEED

Smartweed reproduces using rhizomes (rootstocks) and seeds. Plants normally grow from two to three feet tall. The stems are usually unbranched and thicken to form nodes at the leaf joints. This trait is partially responsible for the common name of knotweed. Swamp smartweed may also exhibit a red-stripped stem. The leaves of the plants are alternate, oblong, and tapering at both ends. They are usually pointed at the tip and exhibit smooth margins. The leaves of land plants grow up to 8 inches long, while those of aquatic plants are somewhat smaller (up to 6 inches long).

The leaves of the land plants are generally more oval than those of aquatic plants, which exhibits floating, arrow-shaped leaves. The leaf stalks of both plant forms encircle the stem to form nodes. The plants display extensive root systems. They are known to grow roots at the nodes of the stem. Swamp smartweeds exhibit tall, slender, and erect flower clusters. The spike-like flower clusters grow from 1.5 in. to 7 in. tall. The flowers may be red, pink, or white (very rarely) in color.

Control

Swamp smartweed blooms from July to September. The spreading root system allows for competition with other plants while making it difficult to kill the plants. For this reason, cultivation, hoeing, and harrowing may be used to control the plants.



READ THE LABEL

This publication contains no pesticide recommendations. There are available pesticides on the market to help control weeds in vegetable and fruit gardens. Only licensed pesticide applicators are permitted to use pesticides on someone else's property. You may apply pesticides to your own property but always

READ THE LABEL!!

QUESTIONS?

Contact your county Extension Office

<http://lucas.osu.edu>
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This is a publication of The Ohio State University Extension, Lucas County, 2010

We gratefully acknowledge the continued help and financial support of our local county commissioners. We appreciate their input and participation in our programming efforts.

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COMMON CHICKWEED

Common chickweed grows as a winter annual, sprouting from fall to early spring. It sets seed while weather still remains cold. It's very cold hardy and prefers moist, fertile soil with neutral pH in sun or partial shade.

Chickweed is common in flower beds and vegetable gardens where the soil is good. It is a very small plant at first, but becomes a prostrate, green mat. It has oval shaped leaves opposite each other with

pointed ends. Small white flowers open in sun, and partially on cloudy days.

Control

If in a resting vegetable bed in spring, use a pronged hoe to rake through it and when the stems become knotted on the tines, twist in a circle to pull the plants from the soil. Remove the chunks of chickweed and dispose of in a waste place. To remove plants next to hardy flowers, use a fork. Slip the tines under the crown of the chickweed just at the soil line and twist to pull the plant away from your plant.



WEEDS



NORTHWEST OHIO COMMUNITY GARDEN WEED GUIDE



LUCAS COUNTY

BITTERCRESS

Bittercress is a winter or summer annual, and can be a biennial. It is opportunistic and can over winter as a rosette in mild climates. It is a problem in nurseries and greenhouses.



Bittercress shows up in home gardens from being brought in with or/on container plants. It likes moist, sandy, organic soils in

waste and cultivated areas.

Hairy bittercress has ascending, erect and angled branches with few leaves. The basal leaves are more numerous than the smaller stem leaves and may or may not have hairy upper surfaces. It has fewer upper stem leaves and they are usually hairy on the upper surface. Flowers are white and very prolific in mid to late spring. The seed pods are explosive and can send seeds over 10 feet! Lesser-seeded bittercress is similar, but has rounder, more numerous leaflets.

Control

Bittercress needs to be pulled and discarded before it sets seeds! This is very important as the seeds are so explosive and will spread easily. Watch for hitch-hikers in purchased plants!



Prostrate Spurge

Prostrate spurge is a late-germinating, low growing, mat-producing summer annual. Spurge is very often found in un-irrigated bark mulch. Spurge will tolerate some shade but thrives in full sun sites. The reddish, hairy stems of spurge will produce milky-white latex when broken or injured (similar to dandelion). All spurges have milky sap, which can be toxic to some



animals and may be a skin irritant to humans. Ground spurge and creeping spurge grow prostrate like spotted spurge but have no markings on their leaves. All spurges reproduce by seed, and creeping spurge also can produce roots along the stem, creating new plants.

Control

Constantly monitor infested areas, and mechanically till or hand pull new plants before they produce seed. Mowing is an ineffective method of control. The most common strategy for controlling weeds in ornamental plantings is to use mulch, which prevents light from reaching weed seeds and seedlings, starving them before they can start making food through photosynthesis but regrowth is possible. Wear gloves when you hand pull, since the sap can be a skin irritant.



CANADA THISTLE

Canada Thistle is a perennial, non-native plant on Ohio's Noxious Plant List. It likes heavy, moist soils. But can grow in diverse environments, generally in colonies. It appears in early spring and flowers midsummer to frost with



fragrant, lavender-pink, one-inch flowers. Young plants emerge on a single stem and form a rosette with spiny leaves. As the stem grows, new leaves are alternate, while the mature leaves are tapered and hairy on the undersides. Leaf margins have sharp spines. It's height ranges from 2-5 ft. Horizontal roots spread from the taproot that can extend 6 ft. down. Reproduction is by wind-blown seed and creeping rhizomes. If you dig up a thistle and find it attached to a horizontal root, you probably have a Canada thistle. An extensive root system allows it to out-compete and displace native species. Spreading by rhizomes and seed it creates monocultures covering large areas.



Control

Allow the thistle to grow in spring. When large, but not flowering, mow down. Allow a second flush and mow again. The purpose is to make the plant use up the stored nutrients they have in their roots. When weakened, turn soil & allow to bake in the sun. May take several seasons.

Common Purslane

Common Purslane has a prostrate growth habit that branches to form thick mats. It has a fleshy, succulent nature that helps to distinguish it from most other garden weeds. Purslane is an annual weed that germinates after the soil warms in early summer and produces fifty-two thousand seeds per plant. Purslane seeds are viable for up to twenty-five years.



Control

The best way to control purslane is to keep it from producing seed by hoeing it out of the garden. It can redevelop from the taproot left in the soil. Plants pull out of moist soil easily, but it's important to bag and discard pulled plants, as those left on a moist soil surface can re-root. Eliminate purslane as soon as it's identified and before flowering. Purslane is edible as the leaves make a spicy addition to salads.



GARLIC MUSTARD

Garlic mustard is a European woodland plant introduced to North America by early settlers for its culinary and alleged medicinal qualities. In North America, European insects and diseases that control the plant's population are not present. Garlic mustard starts growing earlier in the season than our native plants, and out-competes them. It also produces large quantities of seed. Garlic mustard is a biennial plant with a two-year life cycle. The first year, it forms a rosette of round, scalloped-margined leaves that stay semi-evergreen through winter. The second year, it sends up a flower stem with triangular toothed leaves that bears tiny white flowers with four petals. The plant dies after producing long narrow seedpods. At maturity, garlic mustard plants may be 3-4 feet tall and bear up to 500 seeds per plant.



Control

Repeat any control method for several years since garlic mustard seeds can survive in the soil for up to 7 years. Hand-pull small infestations, but do not compost the plants because most compost piles do not get hot enough to kill the seeds. Dispose of pulled plants by burying deeply in an area that will not be disturbed or send to the landfill.

Field Bindweed

Field bindweed (also called creeping jenny or morning glory) is a perennial. It reproduces by both seed and underground roots. The root system is very extensive and may penetrate the soil to a depth of 20 to 30 feet. The plant grows prostrate or will climb on any nearby object. The spreading stems are smooth, slender, usually twining, and may reach lengths of 2 to 7 feet on a mature plant. The leaves are alternate with smooth margins, and are arrow-shaped with two basal lobes. The flowers are white to pink, approximately 1 inch in diameter, funnel shaped, and are borne singly on long stalks in the axil of the leaf.



Control

The best way to get rid of bindweed is to cut it off at soil level. Don't bother pulling it up; it will just sprout wherever you tear the roots (and you will. It's impossible to get all of the roots out.) By continually cutting it off at ground level, and doing it as soon as you possibly can, you will eventually starve the plant (since it will be unable to photosynthesize) and it will die. Be patient! You will have to do this several times, but it will work.



YELLOW NUTSEDGE

Yellow nutsedge is a perennial member of the sedge family. It resembles a grass, but it is distinguished from true grasses by its triangular stems and glossy leaves (arranged in groups of three). It grows 12 to 32 inches tall. Its inflorescence has numerous straw-colored flowers originating from a single point.



Control

Manual control of yellow nutsedge is possible only when initial infestations are discovered, and at very low populations; i.e.: a handful of plants. Careful monitoring of the infested site following manual removal must be done about every 10 days from mid-June through September. Extreme care must be taken to remove all the root systems which have attached tubers (nutlets). Removing just the plants, and some of the roots will leave the nutlets which will be the source of future infestations. Yellow nutsedge can grow up to an inch per day, when the soil temperature reaches 70 degrees. Several flushes of plants can emerge from the nutlets throughout the growing season. The following year no buds on the tubers may sprout, but the season after that the plants may reappear from dormant buds.

