

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP- NOXIOUS WEEDS -JUNE 2010

LIST OF NOXIOUS WEEDS



Identifying Noxious Weeds of Ohio

Bulletin 866-98

Identifying Noxious Weeds of Ohio

What is a noxious weed?

Noxious weeds are especially problematic weeds. They possess one or more of the following attributes:

- aggressive competition with cultivated plants
- toxicity to livestock
- natural habitat degradation
- threat to public health, safety or navigation

The Federal Noxious Weed Law (1974) controls the importation of weed species into the United States. Most states also have their own noxious weed laws. The goal of this Bulletin 866-98 is to aid in the identification of Ohio's noxious weeds.

Ohio has several laws governing weed control. For a brief guide to these laws, see page 23. According to Ohio regulations, county and township officials may regulate noxious weeds on private property and public roadways. Authorities may issue a written notice to eradicate noxious weeds which are spreading or about to set seed. Upon receiving the notice, a resident has five days to comply or the weeds may be removed at the resident's expense.

If you are concerned that noxious weed species may be on your property, this Bulletin 866-98 may help you identify them. Your county Extension office also may help you make a positive identification of these weeds. Weed control options are not provided in this Bulletin 866-98 because they change with the crop or situation. A list of OSU Bulletin 866-98s with weed control recommendations is provided on page 23. Your Extension agent also can suggest the best way to eradicate a noxious weed problem.

Ohio currently has 14 noxious weeds: *

Wild Mustard	<i>Brassica kaber</i> var. <i>pinnatifida</i>
Musk Thistle (Nodding Thistle)	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Wild Carrot (Queen Annes Lace)	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Mile-a-Minute Weed	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>
Russian Thistle	<i>Salsola iberica</i>
Cressleaf Groundsel	<i>Senecio glabellus</i>
Shattercane	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Grapevines (abandoned)	<i>Vitis spp.</i>

* List current as of October, 1998

Invasive and Noxious Weeds

NRCS Invasive Species Policy
Invasive Species Executive Order 13112

Ohio State-listed Noxious Weeds 19 records returned

Click on an accepted name below to view its PLANTS Profile with more information, and web links if available. Noxious weeds that are synonyms retain their noxious status, and are indented beneath the current PLANTS accepted name.

Plant Industry Division. 1997. [Noxious weeds](#) (20 October 2003).
Ohio Department of Agriculture.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Noxious</u>	<u>State</u>	
		<u>Common</u>	<u>Noxious</u>	
		<u>Name</u>	<u>Status†</u>	<u>Native</u>
CANU4	<i>Carduus nutans</i> L.	musk thistle	PNW	L48 (I), CAN (I)
CIAR4	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop.	Canada thistle	PNW	L48 (I), AK (I), CAN (I), GL (I), SPM (I)
COMA2	<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	poison hemlock	PNW	L48 (I), CAN (I)
DACA6	<i>Daucus carota</i> L.	wild carrot	PNW	L48 (I), PR (I), CAN (I)
LEVU	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> Lam.			L48 (I), AK (I), HI (I), CAN (I), SPM (I)
CHLEP	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> L. var. <i>pinnatifidum</i> Lecoq & Lamotte	ox-eye daisy	PNW	
LYSA2	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L.	purple loosestrife	PNW	L48 (I), CAN (I), SPM (I)
PAGL17	<i>Packera glabella</i> (Poir.) C. Jeffrey			L48 (N), CAN (W)
SEGL	<i>Senecio glabellus</i> Poir.	cressleaf groundsel	PNW	
PASA2	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> L.	wild parsnip	PNW	L48 (I), AK (I), CAN (W), SPM (W)
POPE10	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> L.	mile-a-minute weed	PNW	L48 (I)
SATR12	<i>Salsola tragus</i> L.			L48 (I), HI (I), CAN (I)
SAKAT6	<i>Salsola kali</i> L. ssp. <i>tenuifolia</i> Moq.	Russian thistle	PNW	
SIAR4	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i> L.			L48 (I), AK (I), HI (I), VI (I), CAN (I), GL (I), SPM (I)
SIARA	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i> L. ssp. <i>arvensis</i>			L48 (I), AK (I), HI (I), VI (I), CAN (I), GL (I), SPM (I)
BRKAP2	<i>Brassica kaber</i> (DC.) L.C. Wheeler	wild mustard	PNW	

		var. <i>pinnatifida</i> (Stokes) L.C. Wheeler		
SOBI2	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench	shatter cane	PNW	L48 (I), HI (I), PR (I), VI (I), CAN (I)
SOHA	<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (L.) Pers.	johnsongrass	PNW	L48 (I), HI (I), PR (I), CAN (I)
VITIS	<i>Vitis</i> L. ¹	grapevines	PNW	
†Code Noxious Status				
PNW	Prohibited noxious weed			
*Code Native Status				
I	Introduced			
N	Native			
W	Waif			
*Code Native Status Jurisdiction				
L48	Lower 48 States			
AK	Alaska			
HI	Hawaii			
PR	Puerto Rico			
VI	Virgin Islands			
CAN	Canada			
GL	Greenland			
SPM	St. Pierre and Miquelon			

¹ when growing in groups of 100 or more and not pruned, sprayed, cultivated, or otherwise maintained for two consecutive years

Additional information about noxious plants in this state can be found at:

- [OH-Christmas Tree Producers Manual-Weed Control](#)
- [OH-Identifying Noxious Weeds of Ohio](#)
- [OH-Interactive Plant List \(Ohio State University\)](#)
- [OH-Invasive Plant Distribution Maps \(TNC\)](#)
- [OH-Ohio Cooperative Extension Service](#)
- [OH-Ohio Department of Agriculture](#)
- [OH-Ohio Extension: Weed Control](#)
- [OH-Ohio Invasive Plants Council](#)
- [OH-Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide](#)
- [OH-Ohio Weeds and Weed Management](#)
- [Weeds of the North Central States](#)

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DEFINITIONS



Identifying Noxious Weeds of Ohio

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Glossary of Plant Terminology

alternate leaves - adjacent leaves arranged on alternating sides of stem, not opposing.

annual - a plant that flowers, sets seed, and dies within one year.

basal rosette - a low cluster of leaves; a growth habit typical of biennials in the first year.

biennial - a plant that lives for two years, producing flowers and seed the second year.

blade - a linear, parallel-veined leaf, typical of a grass.

brace roots - supporting roots that sprout from the base of stems.

bracts - modified leaves that may encircle or envelope flowers; bracts may be colored resembling petals, or may be green and scalelike.

compound leaf - a leaf divided into leaflets, but considered one unit.

fibrous roots - a fine, branched root system with many root hairs and lateral roots, lacking a taproot.

glabrous - hairless.

inflorescence - a floral structure.

lanceolate - long, spear or lance-shaped.

leaf margins - leaf edges.

leaflet - individual leaflike portions of a compound leaf; e.g., a rose leaf may have 3, 5 or 7 leaflets.

midvein - the middle vein running through the center of a leaf.

node - the portion of stem where the leaves are attached.

opposite leaves - leaves arranged in pairs on opposite sides of the stem.

panicle - a branched floral structure.

pappus - a cluster of seeds with tiny tufts of "hair" attached (e.g., dandelion)

perennial - a plant that may live many years, growing each year from stored energy reserves in roots or woody structures.

petiole - the stem-like structure attaching a leaf to the branch.

pinnately compound leaf - leaflets arranged along a single axis much like a feather.

pubescent - covered with small hairs

rhizomes - underground, creeping stems; capable of forming new plants.

simple - A leaf lacking any subdivisions (leaflets). The opposite of compound.

spike - a long slender floral structure with individual flowers directly attached to the stalk.

stipules - leaflike structures attached at the base of the leaf.

taproot - a single, thick, fleshy root. (e.g. carrot).

terminal - located at the top

umbel - a branched floral structure resembling an (upside-down) umbrella.

whorled leaves - three or more leaves arising from a single node.

NOXIOUS WEEDS IDENTIFICATION



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Wild Mustard

(*Brassica kaber* var. *pinnatifida*)

Habitat: wasteland, roadsides, grain and other fields crops, primarily in northern Ohio

Life cycle: annual annual or summer ann

Growth Habit: 1-2 feet high, branched and erect.

Leaves: Alternate, 2-7 inches long. Lower leaves have petioles and are irregularly lobed and toothed with bristly hairs; upper leaves are smaller and may not be lobed; petioles lacking or short.

Stem: branched near top, bristly

Inflorescence: June - October. 1/2 inch, bright yellow, four-petal flowers borne in small terminal clusters.

Fruit: slender, slightly curved, smooth seedpod about 1 inch long; borne on upper branches

Similar plants: The Yellow Rocket looks similar but has rounded lower leaves that are more heart shaped.

Root: short taproot

The problem is.... Seeds live in the soil for many years. Very common in cultivated fields. Cultivation brings seeds to the surface where they germinate.



Wild mustards bright yellow flowers may be seen during most of the growing season in Ohio.





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Musk Thistle

(*Carduus nutans*)

Habitat: pastures, meadows and wasteland including roadsides

Life cycle: biennial

First Year Growth Habit: A basal rosette. Leaves are waxy and pale green with few hairs.

Second Year Growth Habit: large, coarse, branched plant that can grow up to 9 feet

Leaves: 3-6 inches long, alternate, spiny, deeply lobed, long and narrow

Stem: stems covered with dense, short hairs and spines

Inflorescence: June - October. Purple thistle-like flowers, 1-2 inches in diameter, with spiny-tipped bracts surrounding inflorescence. Often the flower heads droop or nod.

Fruit: white or tan pappus

Similar plants: In the first year of growth, musk thistle may resemble bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). However, the leaves of bull thistle are covered with hairs. Musk thistle is also referred to as nodding thistle.

The problem is.... This prickly weed reduces the quality of grazing land. It has spread quickly throughout much of the Midwest, but is not yet common in Ohio. Avoid handling without gloves.



The inflorescence of musk thistle is 1-2 inches in diameter.



The spines that cover nearly every part of this plant make it truly worthy of the Identifying Noxious Weeds of Ohio "noxious."





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Oxeye Daisy

(*Leucanthemum vulgare* - formerly classified as *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* var. *pinnatifidum*)

Habitat: meadows, roadsides, old pastures and areas low in fertility

Life cycle: perennial; spreads by rhizomes and seeds

Growth Habit: erect, 1-3 feet high

Leaves: 1-3 inches long; alternate, dark green, simple, lobed - especially the larger basal leaves. Basal leaves have large petioles.

Stem: smooth; may or may not be branched

Inflorescence: June - August. Typical daisy-like flowers with white outer petals and yellow centers which are depressed in the center. Flowers are 1-2 inches in diameter and solitary on the stem.

Root: rapidly spreading root system

Similar plants: Oxeye daisy may resemble some species of asters. However, asters typically have unlobed leaves. Fleabanes have similar flowers that are much smaller than oxeye daisy and occur in clusters.

The problem is.... oxeye daisy can establish itself quickly in uncultivated areas. Its early blooming habit and rapid seed maturation allow it to become established early in the season. Seeds may mature even if flower stalks are mowed or cut down. Oxeye daisy is often included in wildflower seed mixtures. Avoid these mixtures; this aggressive weed will quickly out-compete more desirable wildflower species.



Oxeye daisy was introduced from Europe. It has an attractive flower and is sometimes recommended for meadow plantings in other states.



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Canada Thistle

(*Cirsium arvense*)

Habitat: pastures, crops, landscape areas throughout Ohio

Life cycle: perennial with creeping roots

Growth Habit: 1-3 feet high, erect, branched; forming large patches

Leaves: 3-8 inches long, alternate with spiny, crinkled margins; lower leaves are lobed

Stems: grooved and becoming hairy with age; not spiny; branched at apex

Inflorescence: Lavender flower heads about 1 inch wide and long. Flowers are surrounded by bracts without spiny tips.

Fruits: white feathery pappus

Roots: A creeping root system allows this weed to spread aggressively. Hand-pulling and cultivation are often ineffective control mechanisms because new plants sprout from root pieces that snap off.

Similar plants: Stems of Canada thistle are not spiny in contrast to bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*).

The problem is.... an aggressive, spreading root system. Very competitive with field crops and forages. Canada thistle is also prolific in seed production at 700 seeds per stem. Seeds are dispersed by wind and birds.





Canada thistle in flower.



Canada thistle is a common weed in almost any situation.



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Poison Hemlock

(*Conium maculatum*)

Habitat: wet sites, gardens, roadsides, wastelands.

Life cycle: biennial

First Year Growth Habit: basal rosette of finely divided leaves with a pungent odor

Second-Year Growth Habit: 2-7 feet tall, branched plant with flowers

Leaves: alternate, pinnately compound, finely divided and toothed

Stems: branched, waxy with purple blotches; hollow between nodes

Inflorescence: June - August (second year). White flowers with five petals borne in large terminal compound umbels, 2-8 inches across.

Root: fleshy taproot

Similar plants: During the first year, poison hemlock resembles wild carrot, but has a strong, pungent odor; further, young leaves of wild carrot are more finely divided and its stem is grooved. At maturity, poison hemlock can be difficult to distinguish from water parsnip and water hemlock. Look for purple blotches on the stem to identify poison hemlock. Water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*), which is also highly poisonous, has a magenta-streaked stem and lanceolate leaflets with sharply-toothed edges. Water parsnip (*Sium suave*), is not poisonous and has toothed lanceolate leaflets.

The problem is....this plant is highly poisonous to both humans and animals. Poison hemlock is a large and impressive plant which has been planted as an ornamental in some areas. It grows quickly in fertile soils.



Poison hemlock, allegedly the plant used to poison the Greek philosopher Socrates, is a common sight along Ohio roadsides. All parts of this plant are highly toxic.



The stems of poison hemlock are typically covered with purplish blotches. The stems are also hollow between the nodes.





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Wild Carrot

(*Daucus carota*)

Habitat: dry fields, wastelands, pastures, and no-till field crops

Life cycle: biennial, forming a rosette the first year and producing flowers and seed in the second

First Year Growth Habit: a basal rosette

Second Year Growth Habit: 1-3 feet tall, branched and erect

Leaves: alternate, pinnately compound, finely divided and hairy

Flowering Stem: tall, hairy, stout and branched

Inflorescence: June - October (second year). Terminal umbels of tiny, white, 5-petaled flowers are 3-5 inches in diameter with one dark reddish-brown floret in the center. Umbel becomes concave as it matures.

Root: fleshy taproot

Similar plants: Leaves have the appearance and odor of a garden carrot. Wild carrots taproot is not as large as the garden carrot. The plant also resembles poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). The dark floret in the center of the inflorescence in second year and a distinctive carrot smell in the first year will help distinguish this common weed.

The problem is.... prolific seed production and a large, fleshy taproot that is difficult to pull. Because the weed is attractive it has been allowed to spread in many areas.



The flower of wild carrot has a reddish-brown floret in the center, which can aid in its identification.



First-year leaves of wild carrot (left) and poison hemlock (right) may appear similar.





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Purple Loosestrife

(*Lythrum salicaria*)

Habitat: wet meadows, flood plains, wetlands, ditches

Life cycle: perennial

Growth Habit: usually 2- 4 feet tall, but may reach up to 10 feet in nutrient-rich habitats

Leaves: Opposite or whorled, 1.5-4 inches long with smooth margins, lacking petioles. Lower leaves have downy hairs and clasp the stem.

Stem: stiff, 4-sided, woody at the base

Inflorescence: July to early September. Long spikes of rose or purple flowers, each with 4-7 wrinkled petals.

Similar plants: Flowers of native loosestrife are more widely spaced along the stem than those of purple loosestrife.

The problem is.... purple loosestrife is a strikingly beautiful plant that has escaped from cultivation. (It is an introduced species.) This plant invades wetland habitats, crowding out native plants that are important food sources for wildlife. A single stalk of purple loosestrife can produce 300,000 seeds. Purple loosestrife also spreads vegetatively. Cultivated varieties of this plant, sold in nurseries, are supposedly less aggressive, but still may present a risk.



Purple loosestrife crowds out native plants that provide food for wildlife.





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Wild Parsnip

(*Pastinaca sativa*)

Habitat: wastelands, wet sites, roadsides and pastures, undisturbed ground

Life cycle: biennial

First Year Growth Habit: Rosette of basal leaves. Large, three-lobed leaves resemble celery.

Second Year Growth Habit: 2-5 feet, branched, flowering plant

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound with coarse saw-tooth edges; deeply lobed and not hairy. Up to 18 inches long.

Stem: hairy and grooved

Inflorescence: May-August (second year). Small flowers with five yellow or white petals borne in terminal umbels, 2-6 inches across.

Root: fleshy taproot

Similar plants: Second-year plant is somewhat similar to poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). The leaves of poison hemlock are usually more finely divided and its stems are hollow and purplish.

The problem is.... wild parsnip produces huge amounts of seed, allowing it to persist and spread. NOTE: Although wild parsnip has edible roots, it should be avoided because of the possibility of confusion with poison hemlock. Additionally, the leaves of wild parsnip cause a painful and potentially serious rash on some people. Skin sensitivity is greatest at flowering time.



Wild parsnip in its first year of growth.



Usually wild parsnip has yellow umbels, as in this picture, but it may also have white flowers, resembling poison hemlock.



The leaves of wild parsnip are not as finely divided as poison hemlock, however, and its stem is ridged and green.



Wild Parsnip



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Mile-a-Minute Weed

(Polygonum perfoliatum)

Habitat: Nurseries, roadsides, wet meadows, wood borders, other sunny, moist areas. Not yet common in Ohio, but has spread rapidly through the northeastern states.

Life cycle: annual

Growth Habit: persistent vine that can extend 20 feet

Leaves: Unique, triangle-shaped leaves with saucer-shaped sheathes near the base of stems. 1-3 inch leaves are light green, turning reddish-brown in winter, and have sharp, curved prickles on the petioles and leaf veins.

Stem: numerous sharp, backward-curving prickles

Fruit: pea-size, berrylike, fleshy, iridescent blue fruits

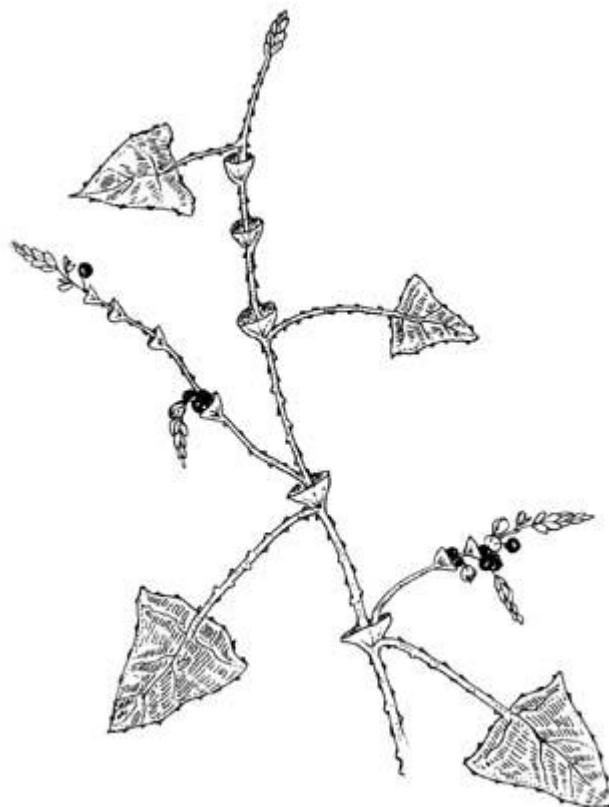
The problem is.... this troublesome annual can grow six inches per day, suffocating other vegetation in its path. Seeds spread easily through waterways or by birds and animals. The weed was introduced accidentally with nursery stock from Asia. Mile-a-minute weed is a recent intruder in Ohio (sited in Washington County).



The unusual triangular leaves of mile-a-minute weed, combined with jagged prickles, make identification easy. Note the saucer-like sheathes near the base of petioles.



Birds and animals that eat these blue berries have spread mile-a-minute weed into new areas.





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Russian Thistle

(*Salsola iberica* - formerly classified as *Salsola kali* var. *tenuifolia*)

Habitat: Dry wastelands or spring-sown field crops during dry seasons. Not common in Ohio.

Life cycle: annual

Growth Habit: 1-2 feet high, multibranched

Leaves: Under 1 inch long, sharp-pointed, awl-shaped, dull-green or grayish. Early leaves are soft and elongated, leaves formed later are short, stiff and prickle-pointed, often turning red. A unique and easy-to-identify weed.

Stem: Becomes stiff and woody with age. At maturity this plant breaks from its root and becomes a tumbleweed, scattering seed across open fields.

Inflorescence: Small flowers lack petals, are red at maturity and located in the upper branches.

The problem is.... seeds are spread by windblown tumbleweeds. It frequents dry habitats and is found more commonly in the west central states.



Russian thistle, a pest of drier areas, has yet to become an established problem in Ohio. * photos
courtesy of Arlyn W. Evans, Memphis, TN





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Cressleaf Groundsel

(*Senecio glabellus*)

Habitat: wet woods, swamps, streambanks, pastures, roadsides and fields

Life cycle: biennial

Growth Habit: 1-3 feet tall, branched

Leaves: alternate, deeply divided with wide, round-toothed lobes; basal and lower leaves up to 8 inches long; upper leaves similar but smaller

Stems: succulent, smooth and hollow

Inflorescence: April - June. Clusters of bright yellow, daisylike blooms, 0.5 - 1 inch in diameter. Each flower is enclosed by green bracts.

Fruit: white pappus

Roots: fibrous

Similar weeds: Common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*) usually does not have a hollow stem and is shorter than Cressleaf groundsel.

The problem is.... this weed is poisonous to grazing animals and spreads very quickly. The name groundsel is from the Anglo-Saxon word groundeswelge which means "ground swallower."



Cressleaf groundsel is taller than common groundsel and has a hollow stem. Photo courtesy of Arlyn W. Evans, Memphis, TN





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Shattercane

(*Sorghum bicolor*)

Habitat: cultivated fields - especially cereal crops

Life cycle: annual

Growth Habit: 4-8 feet tall; resembles corn, but smaller

Leaves: 1-2.5 inch wide blades with white midveins

Inflorescence: July - October. Large panicles of rounded shiny black or red seeds that shatter easily.

Stem: smooth.

Root: fibrous root system; often forms brace roots as well

Similar plants: Shattercane resembles forage sorghum and corn. It is also similar to johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*), but lacks rhizomes and has tighter panicles and wider leaf blades. Shattercane is an annual, while johnsongrass is a perennial.

The problem is.... aggressive, rapid growth. Competitive with crops.



Shattercane seedheads shatter easily; seed can remain viable in the soil for 2-3 years.



Brace roots provide support for shattercane. This weed has a growth habit very similar to corn.





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Johnsongrass

(*Sorghum halepense*)

Habitat: rich soils, cultivated fields throughout Ohio

Life cycle: perennial, spreading by rhizomes and seed

Growth Habit: 3-6 feet or more

Leaves: 0.5 -1 inch wide, smooth blades with a prominent white midvein

Inflorescence: July - October. Can be up to 1 foot or more in length; panicles are loosely branched, purplish, and hairy. spikelets occur in pairs or threes

Roots: Fibrous. Rhizomes are found close to the soil surface. They are stout with purple spots and scales at the nodes.

Stem: smooth, pink to rusty red near the base

Similar plants: Look for rhizomes to distinguish johnsongrass from shattercane (*Senecio bicolor*).

The problem is... johnsongrass is very competitive with crops, spreading rapidly by rhizomes. It was initially introduced to the US as a forage crop, but its aggressive growing habit quickly made it undesirable. It is listed as a noxious weed in numerous states.



**The rhizomes of johnsongrass help distinguish it from
shattercane, and
allow the plant to survive tillage.**



**Johnsongrass has established itself along
the edges of this cultivated field.**



Note the prominent white midveins on the leaves.



johnsongrass



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Grapevines

***Vitis* spp. (abandoned vines only)**

Habitat: woods, abandoned sites

Life cycle: woody perennial

Growth Habit: vining growth habit

Leaves: large, rounded, lobed leaves

Stem: Green and smooth in young plants, but later becomes brown and woody, twisting with peeling bark. Look for woody or green tendrils which can coil around other vegetation.

Fruit: Small grapes in clusters. If the vine has been abandoned for some time, there will probably be no fruit.

The problem is.... these stout vines can smother trees and forest vegetation. Grapevines are only considered a noxious weed if they are growing in groups of 100 or more and are not maintained for two consecutive years.



Grapevines are stout, woody vines.

Grapevines are smothering this young tree.



OHIO REVISED CODE

5579.04 Destruction of brush, briars, weeds, and thistles along highways.

(A) As used in sections 5579.04 to [5579.08](#) of the Revised Code, "noxious weed" means shatter cane (*Sorghum bicolor*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali* var. *tenuifolia*), or any plant designated a prohibited noxious weed by the director of agriculture.

(B) A board of county commissioners, a board of township trustees, or the street commissioners of a municipal corporation, having control of and being charged with the duty of repairing macadamized, graveled, or improved roads, and county engineers, township road superintendents, and the street commissioners of each municipal corporation, between the first and twentieth days of June, the first and twentieth days of August, and, if necessary, the first and twentieth days of September of each year or whenever necessary to prevent or eliminate a safety hazard, shall destroy all brush, briars, burrs, vines, noxious weeds, and, until June 1, 1996, multiflora rose, growing within the limits of a county or township road or improved, graveled, or macadamized road, street, or alley within their jurisdiction.

Effective Date: 06-11-1991

5579.05 Notice to destroy weeds.

(A) Upon receiving written information that noxious weeds, wild parsnip, wild carrot, oxeye daisy, wild mustard, or other harmful weeds are growing on land in a township, other than land owned or managed by the department of natural resources, or park land owned or managed by the state or a political subdivision, the board of township trustees shall notify the owner, lessee, agent, or tenant having charge of the land of the receipt of the information and of the obligations imposed by this section. Within five days after the notification is given, the person notified shall cut or destroy the weeds or show the board why there is no need for doing so.

If the person in charge of the land is a resident of the township or a nonresident whose address is known, the notice shall be sent to his address by certified mail. If the person's address is unknown, it is sufficient to publish the notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

(B) Upon receiving information that wild parsnip, wild carrot, oxeye daisy, wild mustard, or noxious weeds are growing in a township on land owned or managed by the

department of natural resources, or on park land owned or managed by the state or a political subdivision, the board of township trustees shall notify the county extension agent for the county in which the township is located of the receipt of the information. Within five days after the notification is given, the extension agent shall meet in committee with a person designated for this purpose by the governing authority of the land and, if the land is within a soil and water conservation district, with a supervisor of the district designated by the district supervisors, to consider ways to deal with the problem, and shall, within such five days, report the committee's findings and recommendations to the board of township trustees.

This section and sections [5579.06](#) and [5579.07](#) of the Revised Code do not apply to persons subject to section [4959.11](#) of the Revised Code.

Effective Date: 07-04-1984

5579.06 Effect of noncompliance with notice.

If the owner, lessee, agent, or tenant having charge of the land mentioned in division (A) of section [5579.05](#) of the Revised Code fails to comply with that division, the board of township trustees shall cause the weeds to be cut or destroyed and may employ the necessary labor, materials, and equipment to perform the task. All expenses incurred shall, when approved by the board, be paid out of the township general fund from moneys not otherwise appropriated.

Effective Date: 07-04-1984

5579.07 Expense a lien upon land.

The board of township trustees shall make a written report to the county auditor of the board's action under sections [5579.05](#) and [5579.06](#) of the Revised Code with a statement of the board's charges for its services, the amount paid for the labor, materials, and equipment, and a proper description of the premises. These amounts, when allowed, shall be entered upon the tax duplicate, shall be a lien upon the land from the date of the entry, and shall be collected as other taxes and returned to the township and placed in the township general fund.

Effective Date: 07-04-1984

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4959.11 Destruction of noxious weeds.

The superintendent or manager of a toll road, railroad, or electric railway shall destroy all brush, briars, burrs, vines, Russian thistle, Canadian thistle, common thistle, wild lettuce, wild mustard, wild parsnip, ragweed, milkweed, ironweed, and all other noxious weeds growing or being cut within the limits of such toll road, railroad, or railway, or within the limits of any right of way belonging to the company owning such toll road, railroad, or railway, whether or not it is in actual operation on such right of way, between such days as are specified in section [5579.04](#) of the Revised Code. In default of such destruction, and for five days thereafter, the board of township trustees of a township through which such toll road, railroad, or railway passes, shall cause it to be done, and shall have a right of action against such company for the amount of such work, with one hundred per cent penalty and costs of action, to be recovered before any judge of a county court or judge of a municipal court having jurisdiction in the area of the county in which the work was done.

Effective Date: 01-10-1961



Identifying Noxious Weeds of Ohio

Bulletin 866-98

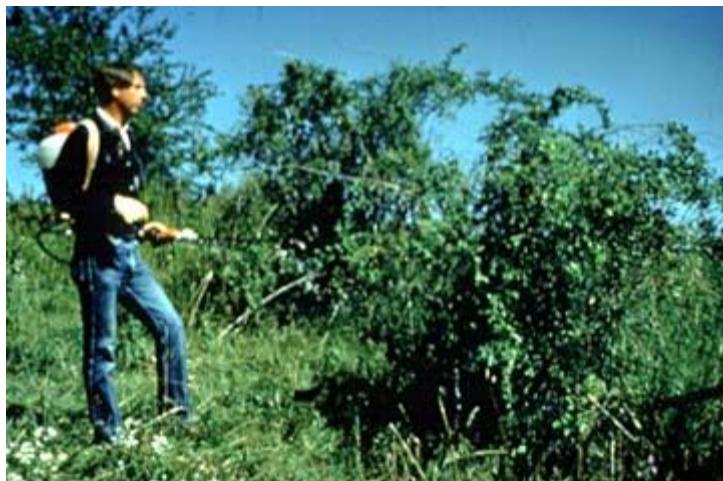
Additional Weed Regulations in Ohio

Lythrum salicaria (Purple Loosestrife)

A permit is required from the Ohio Department of Agriculture to sell or plant *Lythrum salicaria*. The permit allows the sale and planting of sterile varieties of *Lythrum* that do not threaten native habitats.

Multiflora Rose

Multiflora rose may be used by licensed nurseries as rootstocks for other rose species. To use this plant for any other reason, a special permit is needed from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Multiflora rose is a thorny and invasive woody plant. It is difficult to eliminate once established. Note: multiflora rose can be distinguished from other roses by the presence of fringe-like stipules at the leaf bases.



Multiflora rose was introduced to the U.S. in the 1950s as wildlife cover and was also marketed as a "living fence." Since then it has become a thorny problem in pastures, fields and other open areas.

Ohio Noxious Seed Law

Ohio also has a noxious seed law, enforced by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. It prohibits certain weed seeds from being present in crop seed. Most of the prohibited species are troublesome perennials that spread quickly and weeds that have not yet been introduced to Ohio. For a list of weeds prohibited in commercial seeds, contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry. Lists are available of weed seeds which are prohibited in crop seed (primary noxious weeds), and weed seeds which are not allowed to exceed 0.25% of a crop seed's weight (secondary noxious weeds). No crop seed may contain weed seed of any kind exceeding 2.5% by weight.

Extension Guides to Weed Control

These guides are available from your county OSU Extension office. Many are also available on-line at Ohioline, Extension's website:

<http://ohioline.ag.ohio-state.edu/lines/bulls.html>

Weed Control Guide for Ohio Field Crops, Bulletin 789

Corn, Soybean, Wheat and Alfalfa Field Guide, Bulletin 827

Ohio Agronomy Guide, Bulletin 472

Controlling Weeds in Nursery and Landscape Plantings, Bulletin 867

Control of Turfgrass Pests, Bulletin L 187

Lawn Weeds and Their Control, Bulletin NCR 26

The Ohio Vegetable Production Guide, Bulletin 672

Midwest Small Fruit Pest Management Handbook, Bulletin 861

Ohio Christmas Tree Producers Manual, Bulletin 670

Ohio Herbicide Selector Software

Quick Guide to Weed Regulations in Ohio Law

907.10 - outlines the duties of the Director of Agriculture, one of which is to establish primary and secondary noxious weeds.

731.51 - 731.53 - gives municipal corporations the authority to eliminate noxious weeds from properties.

927.681 - regulates multiflora rose.

927.682 - regulates purple loosestrife.

4959.11 - gives managers of toll roads or railroads authority to destroy certain listed weeds and brush.

5579.04 - 5579.08 - gives highway departments and township trustees authority to control noxious weeds.

901:5-31-01 - lists details of noxious seed law.

901:5-37-01 - lists prohibited noxious weeds.