

# Invasive Weeds Watch List

# SULPHUR CINQUEFOIL

- ✘ Flowers: Sulphur yellow corolla, 5 petals that are deeply notched, **heart-shaped**
- ✘ Flowers May – July
- ✘ Leaves: 5 – 7 leaflets, prolonged triangular teeth
- ✘ Grows in pastures, roadsides, old fields, fence lines and waste areas
- ✘ **Seldom grazed by cattle, but is eaten by sheep and deer.**
- Perennial Forb brought in from Europe
- ✘ Historical: Plants were boiled in vinegar, and the solution was held in the mouth to stop the pain of toothache
- Very common in our area



# ST. JOHNSWORT

- Native of Europe
- Flowers are yellowish-orange June – August
- Perennial, spreads by seeds and rhizomes
- Leaves are opposite and have many distinctive **translucent dots**
- Stems, woody much-branched
- Found in roadsides, prairies, rangeland
- Can **cause photosensitizing** reaction to nonpigmented skin in livestock
- **Killed millions of sheep** in the west before it was controlled



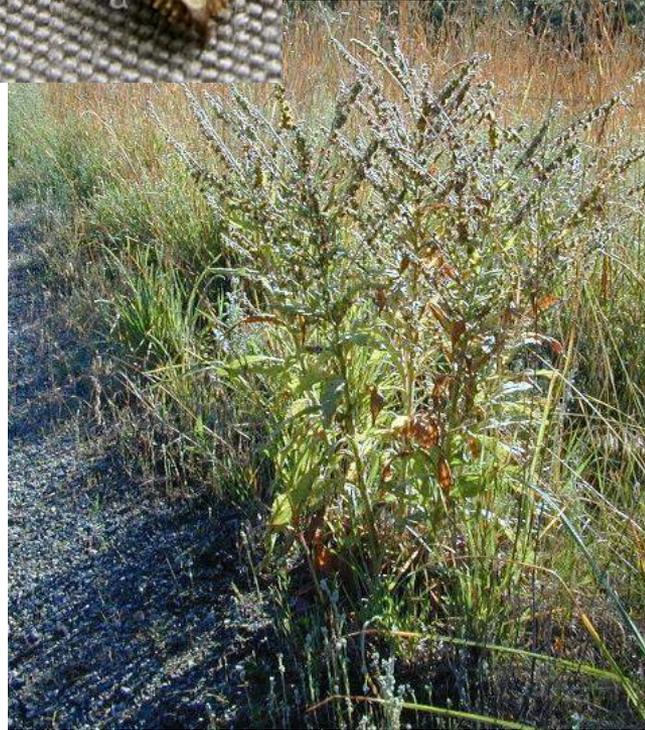
# Hoary cress – Whitetop

- A creeping perennial
- Mustard family
- Reproduces by seed and creeping roots
- Grows erect from 10 to 18 inches high
- White flowers
- Leaf is 1/2 to 2 inches long with blunt ends
- spreads primarily by extremely persistent roots from which new rosettes and flowering shoots arise and will **eventually eliminate desirable vegetation and become a monoculture**



# Houndstongue

- Biennial in the Boraginaceae family
- First year plants form a rosette of long, rough, hairy, **tongue-shaped leaves**
- Second year plants are 1 to 4 feet tall with stout, upright stems, usually branched above
- Entire plant covered with long, soft hairs
- Plants have several narrow flower clusters, slightly coiled
- Flowers dull reddish-purple, drooping slightly along slender stalks, about 1/3 inch wide
- Leaves alternate, long and narrow, smaller higher up the stem, 1 to 3 inches wide, rough, hairy, lacking teeth and lobes, with distinctive veins
- **Lower leaves up to a foot long and resemble a hound's tongue**, broader at the tips and tapering to a petiole (leaf stalk) at the base; upper leaves are reduced, narrower, and lack petioles (stalks)
- Plants have a thick, black, woody taproot that can reach 3 feet deep



# Viper's Bugloss - Blueweed

- biennial or [monocarpic](#) perennial plant
- growing to 12–31 in tall
- rough, hairy, oblanceolate leaves.
- flowers **start pink and turn vivid blue** and are 15–20 mm (0.59–0.79 in) in a branched spike, with all the stamens protruding.
- **pollen is blue but the filaments of the stamens remain red**, contrasting against the blue flowers.
- flowers between May and September.
- found in dry calcareous grassland and heaths, bare and waste places, along railways and roadsides
- **Sticky to the touch**



# Absinthe Wormwood

- Herbaceous perennial with a strong sage odor.
- 3 feet tall at maturity but can grow to over 5 feet.
- Leaves are 2 to 5 inches long, divided two or three times into deeply lobed leaflets and are light to olive green
- Leaves and stems are **covered with fine silky hairs that give the plant a grayish appearance.**
- Stems are woody at the base of the plant.
- Flower stalks appear at each upper leaf node and produce numerous yellow flower heads that are 1/8 inch in diameter.
- Seed is less than 1/16 long, smooth, flat, and light gray-brown in color.



# Poison- Hemlock

- A biennial herbaceous plant in the carrot family
- Grows 3-8 ft. (0.9-2.4 m) tall.  
**Stems are stout, hollow, ridged, and purple-spotted.**
- Has a thick, white taproot that may easily be mistaken for wild parsnips.
- **All plant parts are poisonous;** however, the seeds contain the highest concentration of poison
- Leaves are shiny green, 3-4 times pinnately compound, and clasp the stem at the swollen nodes.
- Crushed foliage and roots have a **disagreeable, parsnip-like odor.**
- Flowers are small, white, and held in umbels about 3 in.
- reproduces from
- **Human deaths have occurred from harvesting and consuming the roots as wild carrots or parsnips.**
- quickly colonizes disturbed habitats such as roadsides, old fields, fencerows and ditches.



Field Bindweed, Dames Rocket, Horsenettle, Burdock, Buffalobur, Black Henbane, Wild Oats, Common Tansy, Common Crupina, Sowthistle



# GARLIC MUSTARD

- Forb
- Biennial
- From Europe in the 1800's as a medicinal herb and pot herb
- **Taproot – unique “S” shape at the soil surface**
- White flowers
- Flowers April - June
- Tolerates shade or partial shade
- Aggressive and rapidly spreading weed, especially in woodlands



# Wild Parsnip

- Aggressive, monocarpic perennial plant that germinates from seed, **spends the first year or more as a rosette, eventually bolts into a mature plant in the second year or later.**
- Grows 4- 6 feet tall.
- Leaves alternate along the stem, are pinnately compound, and consist of egg-shaped leaflets having saw-toothed edges that are arranged in pairs along the stalk; becoming progressively smaller near the top of the stem.
- Bolted stems are erect, branched, hollow, slightly grooved, and terminate in flat-topped, compound flower umbels. Umbels are generally 2- 6 inches wide and contain many small, 5-petaled yellow flowers that bloom from June through late August.
- Reproduces by seed. Seeds are small, broad, oval, slightly ribbed.
- Forms a long thick taproot that is similar in appearance and smell to cultivated parsnips
- **causes phytophotodermatitis- when skin comes in contact with plant sap**



# CAUCASIAN BLUESTEM

An old world bluestem species

Native to Asia and Africa

Brought to the US in the 1920's as a  
forage grass and erosion control

Perennial, warm-season grass

**Blue-gray in color**

1' – 3' tall

Blooms earlier than native bluestem  
grasses

Spreads by root and seed

**Out competes native warm season  
grasses**

Alters the **carbon to nitrogen ration**  
that inhibits the growth of native  
plants

**Difficult to eradicate once  
established**

Poor quail nesting because it forms a  
much thicker sod



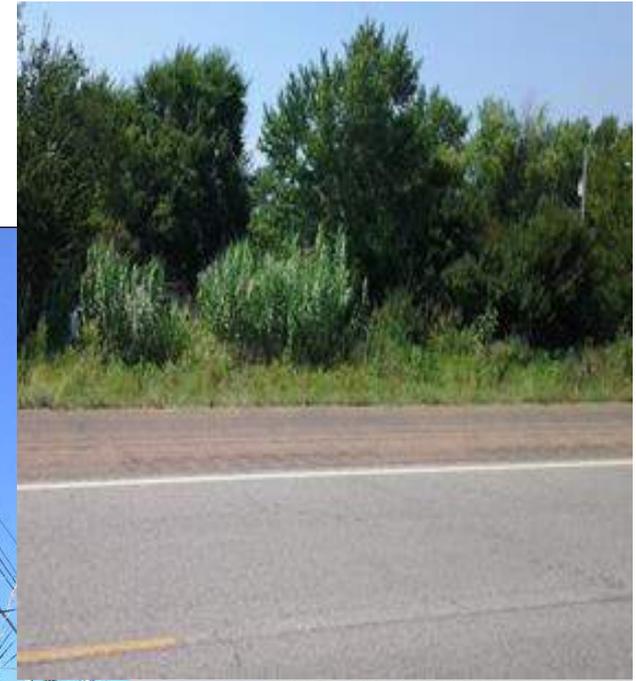
# CHINESE SILVERGRASS (*MISCANTHUS*)

- Native to China, Japan and Korea
- A highly variable robust perennial grass that can grow to 5 to 10 feet
- The leaves are elongate and can measure 3 feet in length and 1 inch across
- Prefers full sun and moist, rich soil that drains well
- **It has escaped from older ornamental plantings.**
- **It forms extensive infestations along roadsides,** forest margins, and disturbed sites.
- It is highly flammable and a fire hazard.
- Manual control of this species is NOT recommended
- Glyphosate and imazapyr work well



# GIANT REED (*ARUNDO DONAX* L.)

- **Highly Invasive**, perennial grass
- **High risk especially along rivers and streams**
- Forms dense monocultures
- **Dispersal occurs when rhizomes break off and float down stream**
- Not known to produce seeds
- **Negative effectives on wildlife**
- Affects recreational areas
- Fire hazard & **flood creating potential**
- Estimate that about 57% of the United States and 2% of Canada is suitable for invasion
- Noxious Weed in Texas
- **Being considered as a biofuel in eastern states**
- Used to **make reeds for musical instruments**



# Marestail (horseweed)

## *Conyza Canadensis*

- Winter or summer annual.
- Cotyledons are egg- to spatula-shaped and hairless. Seedling leaves initially develop from a basal rosette; mature leaves are alternate and numerous, and crowded along an erect central stem. Leaves are hairy and linear to lance-shaped with smooth to toothed margins, gradually becoming smaller toward the top of the plant.
- Erect, hairy central stem arises from a basal rosette, then branches to flower, reaching up to 7 feet tall. **Flowering branches resemble a horse's tail.**
- Numerous clusters of small, white flower heads are found on many short branches near the top. Each seedhead is capable of producing thousands of small seeds
- Reproduction by seeds.
- **Herbicide resistant**



# Palmer Amaranth

- Summer annual that commonly reaches heights of 6- 8 feet but can reach 10 feet.
- Leaves are smooth and arranged in an alternate pattern that grows symmetrically around the stem, oval to diamond-shaped
- Small **sharp spine at the leaf tip**.
- Some Palmer amaranth plants have a **whitish V-shaped mark on them**. Not all plants display this characteristic.
- There are separate male and female plants.
- Palmer amaranth **looks similar to our native pigweeds**.
- Redroot and smooth pigweeds have fine hairs on their stems and leaves. **Palmer amaranth and waterhemp do not have these hairs**.
- **The petiole (stalk connecting a leaf to the stem) is longer than the length of the leaf.**
- Waterhemp, **the petiole will be only half the length of the leaf.**
- Seedhead spikes on female Palmer amaranth plants are much taller (up to 3 feet long) and **more prickly than** waterhemp, redroot or smooth pigweed spikes
- **Herbicide resistant**



# Water Hemp

- Is It Redroot Pigweed, Smooth Pigweed or Waterhemp?
- **Waterhemp plants typically have no hairs on stems or leaves**, giving the plant a smooth texture, the leaves feel smooth
- **Smooth and redroot pigweed have small, fine hairs** that feel rough to the touch on both stems and leaves.
- Waterhemp leaves are typically **glossy and often more elongated**, or lanceolate, compared to redroot or smooth pigweed.
- Stem color of waterhemp can vary from light green to dark red; several shades of red and green may even be present on the same plant. Plants may be completely red, green, or some combination of red and green.
- Plants with red stems and green petioles or green stems with red petioles are not uncommon.
- Waterhemp, **the petiole is only half the length of the leaf.**
- **Herbicide resistant**

