

Weld County Weed Watch “B” List

These noxious weeds are on their way to your field.

Eurasian Watermilfoil

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Eurasian watermilfoil is considered one of the worst aquatic weeds in North America. It is a native of Eurasia and was accidentally introduced in the late 1800’s. Eurasian watermilfoil readily invades stagnant to slow moving water. It can tolerate brackish water and low temperatures.

Eurasian watermilfoil is a perennial, submersed aquatic plant. Plants are rooted with stem growth to the waters surface, up to 20 feet deep. It is recognized by the dense mats of bright green, finely dissected, whorled leaves. Delicate leaflets give it a feathery appearance. Each leaf has 12 – 21 pairs of leaflets. The leaves are 1 inch long.

Eurasian watermilfoil mainly spreads by stem fragmentation. Once it has been introduced into a body of water, control is very difficult. Prevention is the best method.

(Eurasian watermilfoil pictures: © 2001 Joe DiTomaso)



Yellow Nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*)

Yellow nutsedge is a warm season perennial, grass like species that is one of the most noxious of agricultural weeds worldwide. It favors low, moist areas and is especially troublesome in annual and perennial crops that are irrigated. It forms dense colonies.

Yellow nutsedge grows 1 to 3 feet tall. It has characteristic triangular shaped stems. Leaves are distinctly folded lengthwise and are produced in groups of three. Leaf margins are finely serrated and are equal to or longer than the flowering stems.

Flowers range in color from straw yellow to gold brown with umbrella-like tops. Spikelets occur from June to October and consist of up to 40 florets. Yellow nutsedge reproduces vegetatively from tubers as well as seed. One plant can produce hundreds to thousands of tubers in a season. Tubers can survive 3 to 4 years. Yellow nutsedge is not controlled by common grass herbicides.



(Photos of yellow nutsedge courtesy of WA State Noxious Weed Control Board)

Venice mallow and spurred anoda are members of the mallow family. Other members of this family are common mallow and velvetleaf. Some members of the mallow family have seed viability for more than 50 years.

Venice Mallow (*Hibiscus trionum*)



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Venice mallow is also known as bladder ketmia, flower-of-an-hour and rosemallow. Venice mallow was introduced from Europe. It is found in disturbed areas and cultivated fields.

It is a summer annual that typically grows 10 to 18 inches tall, with a shallow taproot and fibrous root system. Stems and leaf stalks are covered with stiff hairs. The plant is more spreading than erect.

The true leaves are alternate, are approximately 3 inches wide and long, and are divided into 3 to 5 distinct lobes. All leaves are without hairs on the upper surface and have hairs on the lower surface.

Venice mallow flowers from July to September. The showy “hibiscus” flowers have 5 petals, are light sulfur yellow with a purple or blackish center. They can be up to 1 ½ inches in diameter. Petals are shed soon after the flower opens.

(Virginia Tech Weed ID Guide pictures courtesy of Dr. Scott Hagood)

Spurred Anoda (*Anoda cristata*)

Spurred anoda germinates later than velvetleaf and thus germinates after most post-emergent herbicide applications have been completed. A summer annual, spurred anoda has a low growing, spreading profile. The stems can spread 4 to 5 feet from the taproot. The plant has many branches at the base and is usually ½ to 3 ½ feet tall.

Spurred anoda seedlings have one round and one heart-shaped leaf with hairs along the margins. True leaves are alternate, 1 ½ to 3 inches long. They are usually triangular in shape. All are coarsely toothed. The first true leaves of spurred anoda are much more coarsely toothed than those of velvetleaf.

Flowering occurs from August to November with solitary 5 petal flowers of purplish-red to bluish-violet arising from the leaf axil. The 5 green outer flower parts are apparent, with the lobes widely spreading under and extending beyond the flattened disk of the fruit, in a star shape. The flower disks contain 8 to 20 seedlets united in a ring, each conspicuously “beaked” with an elongated dorsal spur.

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If you suspect you have one of these four noxious weeds call 970-304-6496 ext. 3770 for assistance or visit our website at www.weldweeds.org