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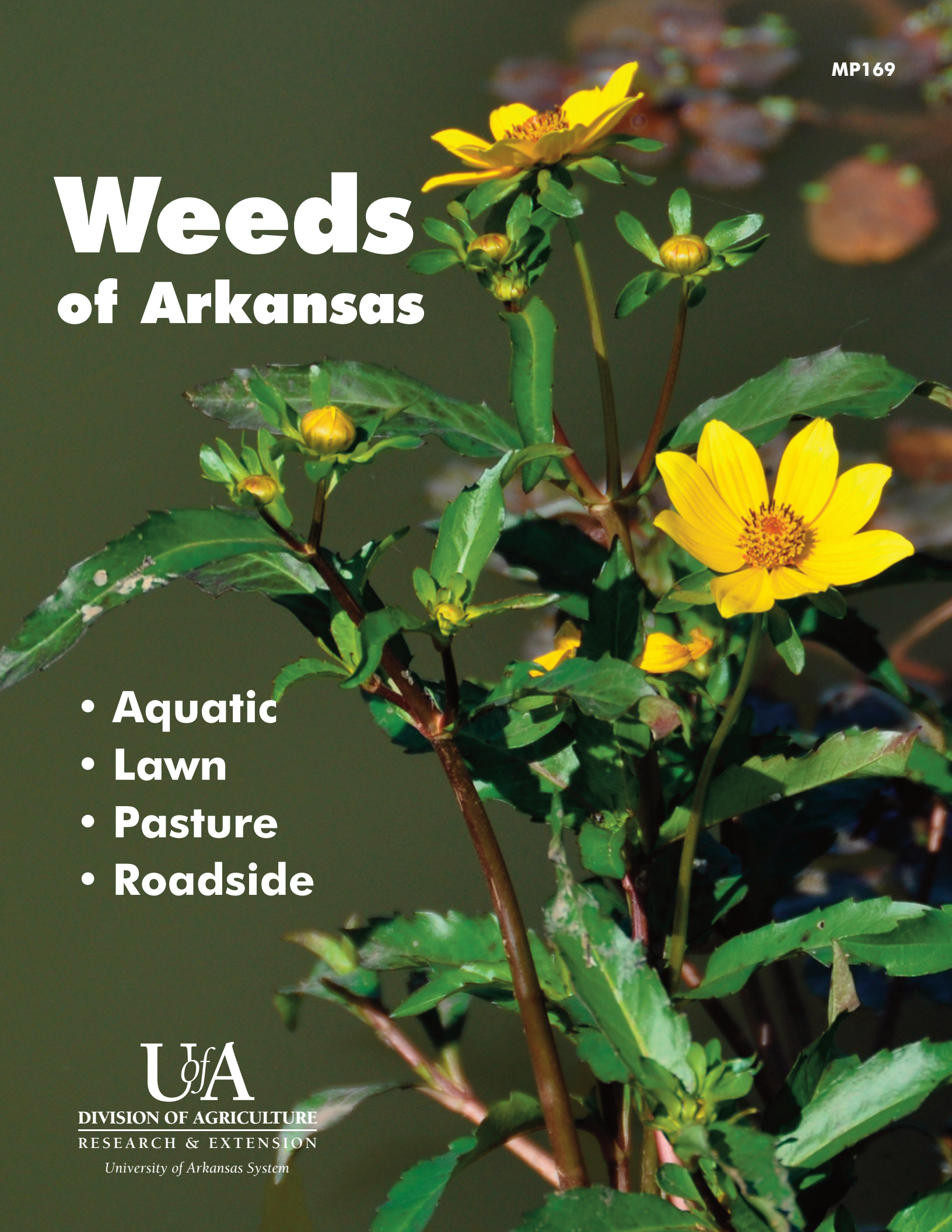
Weeds of Arkansas



- Aquatic
- Lawn
- Pasture
- Roadside

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Weeds of Arkansas

- Aquatic
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Foreword

Ford Baldwin, former Extension weed scientist, and E. B. Smith, a botany professor at Fayetteville, produced the first version of *Weeds of Arkansas* in 1980. This is a complete revision with new photographs and a different mix of species. Mulberry weed, Chamberbitter, American Burnweed and Asiatic Hawksbeard were not a factor in 1980 but have increased in frequency and distribution since then. Also new to the second edition are several woody plants and vines as well as some common aquatic plants. Parts of Dr. Smith's plant descriptions were used in this edition. Plants are arranged alphabetically by family. Genera are arranged alphabetically within families. One exception is that the common lawn grasses are grouped together within the Poaceae (grass family) for ease of comparison.

It is only a weed if you think it is a weed. Many of the species in this publication are attractive wildflowers or plants that pique the interest of the casual observer. A guiding principle for deciding which plants to include was selecting those that are repeatedly submitted to Extension for identification. Many of these species are not weeds but plants that have some eye-catching feature. Examples include the colorful fruit of Green Dragon or the winter blooms of Groundsel Tree.

Common and botanical names generally conform to the Weed Science Society of America's Composite List of Weeds (*http://wssa.net//weed/composite-list-of-weeds/*). Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri*, revised edition by George Yatskievych was a primary source for family names and species not included in the WSSA Composite List.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Theo Witsell of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission for identifying many of the plants in this publication. Theo is the master of Arkansas flora. Thanks also to John Byrd and Victor Maddux of Mississippi State University for their helpful review of this publication. Blair Griffin, John Jennings, Jim Robbins and Jerry Roach also contributed photos and comments.

Cover photo is bur-marigold (page 19) taken at Bayou Bartholomew in Pine Bluff.

Acanthaceae

Justicia americana

American Waterwillow

- Perennial
- Common along stream and lake margins
- Grows to 3 feet tall
- Forms dense colonies that help stabilize shorelines
- Leaves opposite, long and narrowly tapered, with smooth margins and a distinctive whitish midvein
- Flowers five-petaled, orchid-like, white with purple streaks on the lower petals (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Spadra Creek at Clarksville

Ruellia humilis

Hairy Petunia

- Flowers violet with dark veins in the petals (inset)
- Stems and leaves hairy
- Opposite-pointed leaves that are upturned
- **Photo Location:** Highway 5 right-of-way north of Calico Rock

Agavaceae

Yucca spp.

Yucca

- Perennial
- Flowers white
- Leaves spiky
- Introduced plant that has escaped

Aizoaceae

Trianthema portulacastrum

Horse Purslane

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves simple and entire
- Fleshy with a prostrate growth habit
- Occasional weed in Arkansas crops
- **Photo Location:** Lonoke County

Alsamitaceae

Echinodorus cordifolius

Creeping Burhead

- Warm-season annual or perennial
- Petioles are grooved
- Leaves ovate with seven to nine veins connected by straight cross veins
- Blooms white, appear in warm season and similar to those of the arrowheads
- Found throughout the state on lake and pond margins
- **Photo Location:** Highway 146 road ditch near Stuttgart

Sagittaria lancifolia

Delta Arrowhead

- Perennial
- Upright growth habit
- Petioles long
- Flowers white and three-petaled
- Common throughout Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Research Farm north of Lonoke on Highway 31

Sagittaria latifolia

Common Arrowhead

- Perennial
- Plants normally 1 to 2 feet tall at maturity
- Leaves are all basal, with leaf stalks or petioles usually as long as the water is deep
- Rooted, usually emerged
- Flowers white with yellow centers (inset)
- **Photo Location:** ditch on Roosevelt Road in east Little Rock

Amaranthaceae

Alternanthera philoxeroides

Alligatorweed

- Perennial
- Stems hollow (inset), branched, creeping and rooting at the nodes
- Leaves opposite, with an entire margin
- Flowers white, similar to a white clover blossom
- Grows on land and in water
- One of the most common and troublesome aquatics in Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** Oak Hills Golf Course, DeWitt

Amaranthus spinosus

Spiny Pigweed

- Warm-season annual
- Stems upright, bushy, reddish, bearing spines at the base of the leaf stalks (inset)
- Leaves alternate, simple, dull green, lance-shaped
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Fayetteville

Froelichia gracilis

Slender Snake-Cotton

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves opposite
- Flowers cottony as they mature
- Usually found on dry sites
- **Photo Location:** roadside at Little Rock airport

Amaryllidaceae

Hymenocallis caroliniana

Spider Lily

- Perennial
- Up to 3 feet tall
- Leaves long and narrow
- Flowers large and white
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Clark County

Ipheion uniflorum

Spring Starflower

- Perennial
- Cultivated bulbous herb that escaped locally in Arkansas
- Plants about 4 to 8 inches tall with onion-like leaves and odor when crushed
- Flowers white or lavender
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Anacardiaceae

Rhus glabra

Smooth Sumac

- Perennial
- Shrub or small tree
- The most common sumac in Arkansas
- Other species include Winged Sumac and Fragrant Sumac
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Independence County

Toxicodendron radicans

Eastern Poison Ivy

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- Attaches by aerial rootlets to trees and fence posts
- Leaves alternate, bearing three stalked leaflets
- Leaflets glossy, entire or variously bluntly toothed
- New leaves often have a reddish-green hue
- Flowers inconspicuous
- Fruit small, whitish, produced in axillary clusters in the fall
- **Photo Location:** Hindman Golf Course, Little Rock

Apiaceae

Chaerophyllum tainturieri

Chervil

- Cool-season annual
- Up to 28 inches tall
- Stems hairy, especially at the base
- Leaves alternate, dissected, the primary division into three leaflets – the leaflets pinnately compound, the secondary leaflets deeply lobed
- Flowers small, white, borne in umbels, each being subtended by a whorl of elliptical bracts
- Found in pastures and undisturbed places in lawns and garden
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Cicuta maculata

Spotted Water Hemlock

- Perennial
- Poisonous
- 4 to 6 feet tall
- Flowers white, borne in umbels
- Leaves compound with toothed margins
- Stems hollow and streaked with purple
- Lower stem and upper root are chambered
- Prefers wet areas
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way south of Sheridan

Conium maculatum

Poison Hemlock

- Warm-season annual
- Poisonous
- Leaves are highly dissected and fern-like
- Stems hollow and spotted with purple (inset)
- Found along ditch banks or other low, wet areas
- Poison hemlock is most common in northwest Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Decatur

Daucus carota

Wild Carrot

- Warm-season annual or biennial
- Leaves alternate, dissected, with sheath-like petioles
- Flowers white and borne in flat, umbrella-shaped heads
- Stems 1.5 to 4 feet long, hollow, hairy and bristly
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way near Batesville

Eryngium prostratum

Eryngo

- Perennial
- Runners rooting at the nodes
- Leaves opposite
- Flowers blue to blue-violet, borne in compact, cone-like clusters
- **Photo Location:** boat ramp at Lake Ouachita State Park

Eryngium yuccifolium

Rattlesnake Master

- Perennial
- Leaves with spiny edges
- Flower heads globe-shaped and greenish (inset)
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Logan County

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides

Water Pennywort

- Perennial
- Leaf stalks attach at leaf centers, umbrellalike
- Leaves circular, shiny and leathery, about the size of a half dollar
- Leaf margins with blunted teeth
- Found near ponds, lakes, rivers and marshes
- Flowers form delicate white or greenish umbels
- **Photo Location:** pond on Pleasant Valley Golf Course, Little Rock

Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides

Dwarf Pennywort

- Perennial
- Leaf stalks attach at leaf centers, umbrellalike
- Leaves circular, shiny and leathery, about the size of a dime or less
- See Dichondra and St. Augustinegrass blades for size comparisons
- Leaf margins with blunted teeth
- Flowers form delicate, white or greenish umbels
- **Photo Location:** yard on Midland Street in Little Rock

Hydrocotyle verticillata

Whorled Pennywort

- Perennial
- Stems prostrate and rooting at the nodes
- Leaves long-stalked with round, scalloped-margin blades
- Flowers whitish and inconspicuous in whorls on small stalks from the prostrate main stem
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Ptilimnium nuttallii

Mock Bishop's Weed

- Warm-season annual
- Shorter than wild carrot
- Leaves threadlike
- Common roadside plant
- Often occurs in solid stands
- **Photo Location:** Highway 31 right-of-way north of Lonoke

Torilis arvensis

Japanese Hedge Parsley

- Warm-season annual
- 1.5 to 3 feet tall
- Leaves alternate, dissected
- Flowers white, borne in tiny umbels
- Stems minutely hairy (slightly rough to the touch)
- Fruit gray and tiny, bears barbed hairs and easily sticks to clothing
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Apocynaceae

Apocynum cannabium

Hemp Dogbane

- Perennial
- Reaches a height of 3 feet or taller
- Stems reddish with milky sap (inset)
- Leaves with white midribs and milky juice
- Occasionally seen along Arkansas highways
- Reproduces by seed and by its spreading root system
- **Photo Location:** Highway 70 right-of-way west of Lonoke

Trachelospermum asiaticum

Asian Jasmine

- Perennial
- Frequently used as ground cover in landscapes
- Leaves shiny with a very clean look
- Hardy and aggressive and may become weedy
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Vinca major

Big Periwinkle

- Perennial
- Escaped ornamental that occurs statewide
- Will invade lawns
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Araceae

Arisaema dracontium

Green Dragon

- Perennial
- Fruit colorful berries
- Frequently brought in for identification
- **Photo Location:** Hillcrest neighborhood in Little Rock

Arum italicum

Italian Arum

- Perennial
- Escaped ornamental
- Very cold hardy
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Pistia stratiotes

Water Lettuce

- Warm-season annual
- Floats forming large, dense mats
- Resembles an open head of lettuce
- Leaves light dull green
- Roots light-colored and feathery
- Flowers inconspicuous
- Often used in landscape water features
- **Photo Location:** nursery in Little Rock

Araliaceae

Aralia spinosa

Hercules' Club

- Perennial
- Small tree or shrub
- Leaves large (up to 3 feet long), doubly compound
- Spines thick and sharp on the trunk (inset)
- Common statewide
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Hedera helix

English Ivy

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- Waxy-leaved vine used for ornamental purposes
- Climbs walls, fences and trees
- Can be difficult to eradicate
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Arecaceae

Sabal minor

Dwarf Palmetto

- Perennial
- Shrub
- Found in the southern part of the state
- The only palm native to Arkansas

Asclepidaceae

Asclepias syriaca

Common Milkweed

- Perennial
- Not common in Arkansas
- Usually found in the northern part of the state
- Rarely a weed in pastures
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Mississippi County

Asclepias tuberosa

Butterfly Milkweed

- Perennial
- Flowers bright orange
- Popular host plant for Monarch butterflies
- Typically occurs as single plant along roadsides
- Slow to start as a landscape plant
- **Photo Location:** Mammoth Spring visitor's center

Cyanchum laeve

Honeyvine Swallowort

- Perennial
- Common invader in Arkansas landscapes
- Milky sap
- Not often seen in cultivated areas
- Deep, extensive root system
- **Photo Location:** alley in Little Rock

Asteraceae

Achillea millefolium

Common Yarrow

- Perennial
- 1.5 to 2.5 feet tall
- Leaves alternate, finely dissected and fern-like, somewhat grayish-pubescent
- Flowers white (to pinkish) in tiny heads and aggregated into a flattened cluster about 2 to 4 inches in diameter
- Fruit lacking tuft of hair

Ambrosia artemisiifolia

Common Ragweed

- Warm-season annual
- Plants erect, commonly 1 to 3 feet tall
- Leaves deeply lobed and the lobes again deeply lobed
- Found primarily on roadsides, ditch banks and in waste areas
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Ambrosia bidentata

Lanceleaf Ragweed

- Warm-season annual
- Plants erect, commonly 1 to 2 feet tall, much branched, hairy
- Leaves spear-shaped (inset) with two sharp lobes near the base, rough to the touch
- Contributes to hay fever
- Found on roadsides, in waste areas and pastures
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Ambrosia trifida

Giant Ragweed

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves are large and deeply lobed, with three to five lobes
- Tallest of the three ragweed species in Arkansas, often reaching a height of 6 to 8 feet
- Weed problem on roadsides and in drainage ditches
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Anthemis cotula

Mayweed

- Warm-season annual
- 6 to 24 inches tall, many branched
- Leaves alternate, dissected into numerous tiny segments resulting in a fern-like appearance
- Leaves smell bad when crushed
- Flowers marginal with white petals, the central flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Baccharis halimifolia

Groundsel Tree

- Perennial
- Shrub
- Flowers white (inset)
- Blooms in winter
- Prefers wet areas
- May be seen along Interstate 40 between Little Rock and Memphis
- **Photo Location:** Chenal Parkway, Little Rock

Bidens aristosa

Tickseed Sunflower

- Warm-season annual
- Typically 3 to 4 feet tall but may grow to 6 feet
- Flowers yellow, about 1.5 inches wide
- Leaflets have toothed margins
- **Photo Location:** Hindman Park in Little Rock

Bidens laevis

Bur-marigold

- Warm-season annual
- Leaf margins serrate
- Bur-marigold is an emerged plant occasionally found in the marshes of Arkansas
- Will grow in water or on land
- Flowers bright yellow
- Blooms late, photo taken in late October
- **Photo Location:** Bayou Bartholomew, Pine Bluff

Carduus nutans

Musk Thistle

- Cool-season biennial or annual
- Leaves spiny
- Flowers purple (inset)
- Along with bull thistle, this species is one of the two most common thistles in the state
- **Photo Location:** Highway 130 right-of-way near Stuttgart

Cichorium intybus

Chicory

- Perennial
- Develops from a basal rosette
- Leaf lobes are not opposite
- Flowers blue to purple, square-toothed (inset)
- Stems up to 3 feet tall
- Stems produce a milky liquid when cut
- Each plant can produce up to 3,000 seeds from June through September
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Washington County

Cirsium horridulum

Yellow Thistle

- Cool-season biennial or annual
- Leaves spiny
- Flowers pinkish (inset)
- Found primarily in the southwest part of the state
- Flowers sometimes used in floral arrangements
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Clark County

Cirsium vulgare

Bull Thistle

- Cool-season biennial or annual
- Leaves spiny
- Flowers purple (inset)
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Independence County

Conyza canadensis

Horseweed

- Warm-season annual
- Height ranges from 1 to 5 feet
- Stems hairy
- Leaves alternate, numerous, lance-shaped, entire or often with a few sharp teeth
- Primarily occurs on ditch banks, roadsides and in waste areas
- **Photo Location:** County Extension office, Pine Bluff

Coreopsis lanceolata

Tickseed Coreopsis

- Perennial
- 1 to 2 feet tall
- Leaves opposite
- Leaves a basal cluster
- Flowers yellow
- Popular landscape plant
- **Photo Location:** Children's Library, Little Rock

Coreopsis tinctoria

Plains Coreopsis

- Warm-season annual
- 2 to 3 feet tall
- Leaves opposite, divided into several to numerous narrow segments
- Flowers yellow (inset)
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Hempstead County

Echinacea purpurea

Purple Coneflower

- Perennial
- 2 to 4 feet tall
- Leaves and stems hairy
- Leaves alternate, lance-shaped, entire
- Flowers purple, large and showy
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Eclipta prostrata

Eclipta

- Warm-season annual
- 8 to 36 inches tall
- Stems finely hairy
- Roots at the nodes
- Leaves opposite, 1 to 4 inches long and slightly toothed along margins, without petiole
- Flowers white, borne on stalks from the leaf axils
- Seeds are three- or four-angled and somewhat flattened
- **Photo Location:** nursery at Wrightsville

Erechtites hieracifolius

American Burnweed

- Warm-season annual
- 5 to 6 feet tall
- Leaves alternate, sharp-pointed with toothed margins
- Flowers resemble dandelion puffs when mature
- Dispersed by wind
- **Photo Location:** right-of-way on West Markham Street, Little Rock

Erigeron philadelphicus

Philadelphia Fleabane

- Cool-season annual
- Similar to annual fleabane, but only 9 to 18 inches tall
- Leaves and stems minutely hairy with hairs abruptly bent and pointing toward the apex
- Ray flowers pink, purplish or white with yellow centers
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Eupatorium capillifolium

Dogfennel

- Perennial
- Leaves finely dissected, making it easy to identify
- Leaves have a sour, musty odor when crushed
- Stems become tough and woody as the plant matures
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Hot Spring County

Eupatorium perfoliatum

Boneset

- Perennial
- Leaves extended at the base to encircle the node so that the stem apparently passes through it
- Flowers white
- **Photo Location:** Nisswa, Minnesota

Facelis retusa

Facelis

- Cool-season annual
- Plants about 2 to 6 inches tall; the stem and lower surfaces of the leaves more or less densely gray, cobwebby, hairy
- Leaves with a minute tooth at the tip (inset)
- Flowers white and feathery
- Occurs in the southern half of Arkansas and in the Arkansas River Valley
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Little Rock

Gamochaeta americanum

American Cudweed

- Cool-season annual or biennial
- One of several species of cudweeds in the state
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Gamochaeta purpureum

Purple Cudweed

- Cool-season annual or biennial
- Plants mostly 4 to 20 inches tall; the stem and lower surfaces of the leaves covered with a dense, close mat of whitish, cobwebby hair
- Leaves in a basal whorl and alternate on the stem, tongue-shaped to narrowly oblong, with a minute tooth at the tip, entire
- Flowers in heads tinged brownish or purplish
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Grindelia ciliata

Wax Goldenweed

- Warm-season annual or biennial
- 3 to 5 feet tall
- Leaves clasping
- Leaves with spines on the margins
- Flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Grindelia lanceolata

Gum Plant

- Perennial
- 3 to 5 feet tall
- Leaves narrow with toothed margins (inset)
- Flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Cleburne County

Helenium amarum

Bitter Sneezeweed

- Warm-season annual
- 6 to 20 or more inches tall
- Leaves alternate, smooth, narrow
- Flowers bright yellow, with three-lobed petals, central flowers in a ball-like cluster
- Common pasture weed
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Faulkner County

Helianthus grossiserratus

Sawtooth Sunflower

- Perennial
- Up to 12 feet tall
- Leaves long and drooping, with toothed margins (bottom inset)
- Flowers yellow (top inset)
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way south of Fulton

Helianthus mollis

Ashy Sunflower

- Perennial
- Leaves upturned and heart-shaped and covered with whitish hairs
- Flowers yellow, about 2 inches wide (inset)
- **Photo Location:** roadside near Hope

Heterotheca pilosa

Golden Aster

- Warm-season annual
- 1 to 2.5 feet tall
- Stems hairy
- Leaves alternate, numerous, narrow, entire or few-toothed, hairy
- Flowers yellow (inset)
- Found on roadsides, ditch banks and in waste areas
- **Photo Location:** rip-rap around the Little Rock airport

Heterotheca subaxillaris

Camphorweed

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves clasping
- Flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** rip-rap around the Little Rock airport

Hypochaeris radicata

Spotted Cat's Ear

- Perennial
- 6 to 15 inches tall
- Leaves form a basal rosette
- Flowers bright yellow, resembling dandelion (inset)
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Iva annua

Annual Marshelder

- Warm-season annual
- 3 to 6 feet tall
- Leaves and stems hairy
- Often found in wet areas
- A related species, *Iva angustifolia*, found mainly in southwest Arkansas is toxic to cattle
- **Photo Location:** Hindman Golf Course, Little Rock

Krigia caespitosa

Dwarf Dandelion

- Cool-season annual
- Flowers small, yellow
- Occasional lawn weed
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Lactuca canadensis

Wild Lettuce

- Cool-season annual or biennial
- Up to 7 feet all
- Stems reddish
- Flowers white
- Pinkish milky sap (inset)
- No prickles on the leaves
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way near Fulton

Lactuca serriola

Prickly Lettuce

- Cool-season annual or biennial
- Height 2 to 4 feet
- Leaves with spines on the lower side of the midrib (inset)
- Plants resemble spiny sowthistle, but the leaves not clasping the stem at the base
- Leaves and stems with milky juice when damaged
- Flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way near Fulton

Leucanthemum vulgare

Ox-Eye Daisy

- Perennial
- Popular plant for roadside wildflower mixes
- Flower heads about 2 inches wide
- Few leaves on the upright flower stalks
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Hempstead County

Matricaria matricarioides

Pineappleweed

- Cool-season annual
- Leaves alternate, finely divided and hairless
- Flowers found at the terminal end of the stem on short, stiff stalks
- Flowers do not have showy petals (ray flowers), although remnants of the petals are visible
- Leaves emit a pineapple-like aroma when crushed
- **Photo Location:** Rice Research Station, Stuttgart

Packera plattensis

Prairie Groundsel

- Perennial
- Herb about 1.5 to 2 feet tall
- Leaves alternate, toothed to deeply lobed, bearing (usually) cobwebby hairs at least toward the base
- Flowers bright yellow in heads
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Clark County

Packera glabella

Cressleaf Groundsel

- Warm-season annual
- 1 to 3 feet tall
- Leaves beginning in a basal rosette
- Stems hollow
- Flowers bright yellow
- **Photo Location:** Hindman Park in Little Rock

Senecio vulgaris

Common Groundsel

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 18 inches tall
- Leaves highly variable, from hairless to lightly covered, with long, wavy or cotton-like hairs
- Single stem or branched upright growth
- Flowers yellow, bloom nearly year round (inset)
- **Photo Location:** County Extension office, Pine Bluff

Pluchea camphorata

Stinkweed

- Warm-season annual or short-lived perennial
- Leaves alternate and toothed
- Flowers pinkish-purple
- Smells of camphor
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Pyrrhopappus carolinianus

Carolina False Dandelion

- Warm-season annual or biennial
- 1 to 2 feet tall
- Leaves alternate
- Flowers yellow, resemble dandelion flowers, including the formation of stalked parachute fruit
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Rudbeckia hirta

Blackeyed Susan

- Perennial
- 1.5 to 2 feet tall
- Leaves alternate, hairy, entire to toothed on the margin
- Flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** roadside near Hope

Silphium laciniatum

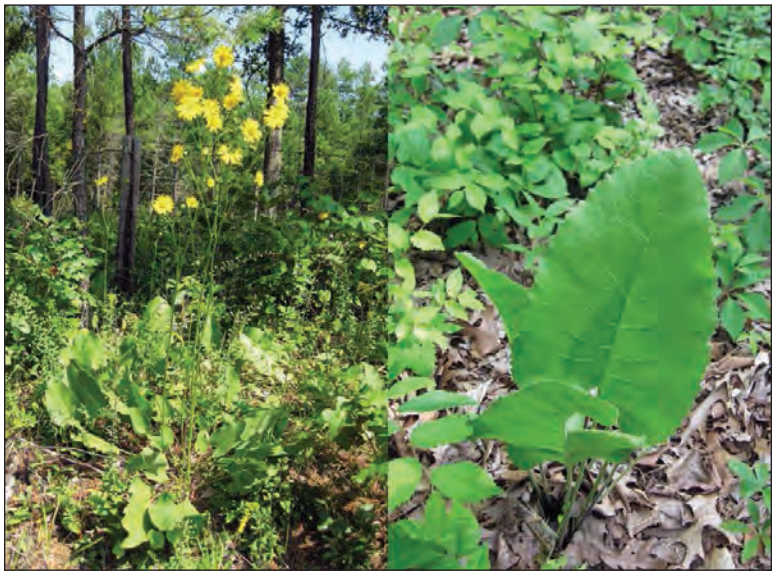
Compass Plant

- Perennial
- 4 to 10 feet tall
- Leaves large and deeply lobed
- Flowers yellow (inset)
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Logan County

Silphium terebinthenaceum

Prairie Dock

- Perennial
- Up to 9 feet tall
- Leaves broad and spade-shaped
- Flowers yellow
- Occurs primarily in northern parts of the state
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Baxter County



Silybum marianum

Milk Thistle

- Cool-season annual or biennial
- Leaves in a basal rosette, with white markings making it easy to identify
- Usually found in the southwest corner of the state
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Miller County

Solidago spp.

Goldenrod

- Perennial
- Numerous species occur in Arkansas
- Leaves alternate, mostly lance-shaped, 2 to 3 inches long
- Flowers yellow, borne in heads on arching inflorescence
- Occasional pasture weed
- **Photo Location:** Clemson, South Carolina

Soliva sessilis

Lawn Burweed

- Cool-season annual
- Plants tiny
- Leaves lacy
- Fruit spiny (inset)
- Mostly in the southern half of Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Sonchus arvensis

Spiny Sowthistle

- Cool-season annual
- 1 to 2 feet tall
- Leaves alternate, spiny-margined, often lobed with the lobes pointing toward base of leaf; the base of each leaf rounded and clasping the stem
- Leaves and stems with milky juice when damaged
- Flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Symphotrichum lateriflorum

White Woodland Aster

- Perennial
- Flowers white with yellow center (inset)
- **Photo Location:** road on the UAPB Fisheries Research Farm

Taraxacum officinale

Dandelion

- Perennial
- Leaves in a whorl at ground level
- Flowers bright yellow in a head at the tip of leafless stems
- Flowers throughout the year
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Vernonia baldwinnii

Westerm Ironweed

- Perennial
- Leaves alternate with serrate margins
- 2 to 4 feet tall
- Flowers purple
- Occasional pasture weed
- **Photo Location:** roadside near Lonoke

Xanthium strumarium

Cocklebur

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves alternate
- Stems with maroon to black lesions
- Burs with hooked prickles that cling readily to clothing and animal hair
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Logan County

Youngia japonica

Asiatic Hawksbeard

- Cool-season annual
- Leaves a basal rosette
- Flowers small and yellow (inset)
- A nonnative weed common in nurseries and landscapes
- **Photo Location:** alley in Little Rock

Azollaceae

Azolla caroliniana

Carolina Mosquito Fern

- Warm-season annual
- Small, free-floating fern, less than 0.5 inch across
- Newer leaves gray-green but can turn rusty-red, especially in cool season
- Leaves tiny and lacy-looking and often overlapping (inset)
- Spreads vegetatively and can rapidly form large, floating mats
- Occurs throughout Arkansas in still or sluggish waters
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Station, Pine Bluff

Balsaminaceae

Impatiens capensis

Jewel Weed

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves with toothed edges
- Flowers reddish-orange with brown spots on the petals (upper inset)
- Flowers have a sac or tail (lower inset)
- **Photo Location:** Mammoth Spring

Berberidaceae

Podophyllum peltatum

Mayapple

- Perennial
- 12 to 18 inches tall
- Growth habit umbrellalike
- Flowers white
- Occurs in large colonies
- **Photo Location:** edge of woods near Bethesda in Independence County

Bignoniaceae

Bignonia capreolata

Cross Vine

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- Leaves opposite, evergreen, two leaflets
- Flowers tubular, red, with flaring yellow lobes
- Fruit long, narrow and flat
- Primarily occurs in fencerows and waste areas
- Cross vine refers to a cross-shaped pattern visible in a cross section of older stems (inset)
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Campsis radicans

Trumpetcreeper

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- Leaves opposite, pinnately compound
- Leaflets oval, toothed, about 1 to 3 inches long
- Flowers orange-red, large and showy, about 2 to 3 inches long, tubular with five lobes; produces several in a terminal cluster
- Fruit bean-like
- Primarily occurs in fencerows and waste areas
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Boraginaceae

Myosotis virginiana

Field Forget-Me-Not

- Cool-season annual
- Plants erect, about 4 to 16 inches tall
- Leaves alternate, entire, rough-hairy
- Flowers tiny, white, tubular, with five lobes, borne many in a terminal raceme that unrolls in a scorpion-tail fashion
- Fruit tiny, inversely turban-shaped
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Nemophila aphylla

Baby Blue Eyes

- Cool-season annual
- 2 to 6 inches tall
- Stems spreading and ascending near the tip
- Leaves and stems bearing many short white hairs
- Leaves deeply lobed, lobes blunt
- Flowers white
- Fruit nearly spherical
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Brassicaceae

Capsella bursa-pastoris

Shepherd's Purse

- Cool-season annual
- 4 to 15 inches tall
- Leaves in a rosette at ground level and usually a few alternate leaves on the stem
- Flowers tiny and white in long clusters at the tip of the stem
- Fruit wedge-shaped (inset)
- Blooming March-May
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Cardamine hirsuta

Hairy Bittercress

- Cool-season annual
- 3 to 9 inches tall
- Leaves arranged in a basal rosette
- Flowers tiny with four white petals (inset)
- Fruit long, skinny, purplish pods
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Coronopus didymus

Swinecress

- Warm-season annual
- Grows flat on the soil surface
- Leaves alternate along the stems
- Leaf edges have one or more rounded, coarse teeth, with short hairs on the tips
- Leaves have a skunk-like odor
- Flower small, white with four petals
- Fruit resembles those of sweet pepper (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Rice Research Station, Stuttgart

Lepidium virginicum

Virginia Pepperweed

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves alternate, narrow
- Flowers white
- Fruit resembles those of sweet pepper (inset)
- A common weed of disturbed soil
- **Photo Location:** nursery in Wrightsville

Nasturtium officinale

Watercress

- Perennial
- Leaves taste of pepper
- Usually found growing in clumps in cold, gently flowing, shallow water
- Flowers white with four petals
- **Photo Location:** Mammoth Spring

Sisymbrium officinale

Hedge Mustard

- Warm-season annual
- 1 to 2.5 feet tall
- Leaves alternate, clasping stem, lobed somewhat like a dandelion leaf; the lobes irregularly toothed, the terminal lobe largest
- Flowers tiny with four yellow petals
- Fruit needle-shaped, held close against the upper stem
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Bryaceae

Bryum argenteum

Silvery Thread Moss

- The most common moss in Arkansas
- Found in turfgrass, usually appearing on putting greens and in shaded backyards
- Moss is usually associated with excess surface moisture as a result of frequent irrigation, heavy shade or poor drainage
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Cabombaceae

Brasenia schreberi

Watershield

- Perennial
- Floating-leaved, but the long leaf stalks reach all the way to the bottom where they attach to a long, creeping root anchored in the mud
- Found in lakes, ponds and slow streams throughout Arkansas
- Will grow in water up to 6 feet deep
- Leaves oval- and shield-shaped with a jelly-like coating on the lower surface
- Leaf stalk attached at the center of the leaf blade
- **Photo Location:** farm pond in Searcy County

Cabomba caroliniana

Fanwort

- Perennial
- Best observed in water
- Leaves floating and submerged, fan-like and about 2 inches across
- Grows in 3 to 10 feet of water and is found in ponds, lakes and quiet streams
- Flowers on stalks that arise from the tips of the stems, white to pink to purplish
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff

Cactaceae

Opuntia humifusa

Pricklypear

- Perennial
- Sharp spines present on the pads
- Sometimes a weed in pastures
- Flowers yellow, sometimes with reddish-orange centers
- Occurs statewide, but most commonly occurs in the north central counties
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Hempstead County

Campanulaceae

Lobelia cardinalis

Cardinal Flower

- Perennial
- Up to 3 feet tall
- Flowers red
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Independence County

Triodanis perfoliata

Venus' Looking Glass

- Warm-season annual
- 8 to 24 inches tall
- Leaves alternate, round-oval, toothed, clasping the stem
- Flowers blue-violet, five-lobed
- **Photo Location:** along the Spring River in Fulton County

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera japonica

Japanese Honeysuckle

- Perennial vine
- Plants climb by twining on fences and brush, a few feet to several yards high
- Leaves opposite, oval, entire
- Flowers tubular, 1 to 2 inches long, lobed at the apex, borne on new growth of the season
- **Photo Location:** alley in Little Rock

Lonicera sempervirens

Trumpet Honeysuckle

- Perennial vine
- Evergreen
- Leaves perfoliate, below flowers
- Flowers long, tubular, slender, red
- Fruit red, translucent
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Sambucus nigra spp. *canadensis*

American Elder

- Perennial
- Tree or shrub
- Leaves opposite, doubly compound
- Leaflets toothed
- Flowers white and fragrant
- Fruit small, black to purple berries
- Fruit used to make pies, jelly and wine
- **Photo Location:** Highway 70 right-of-way east of Little Rock

Symphoricarpos orbiculatus

Coralberry

- Perennial
- Small shrub
- Up to 6 feet tall
- Bark thin and papery on the lower branches
- Fruit pink to coral
- Weed in pastures in northwest Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Savoy

Caryophyllaceae

Arenaria serpyllifolia

Thymeleaf Sandwort

- Cool-season annual
- Spreading
- Leaves opposite, hairy
- Flowers tiny with five white petals, not lobed
- Fruit straw-colored, 10-toothed at the tip
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Cerastium glomeratum

Sticky Chickweed

- Cool-season annual
- 4 to 8 inches tall
- Stems hairy
- Leaves opposite, sessile, entire, oblong, softly hairy (left inset)
- Flowers each with five white petals, each petal with a notch at the tip (right inset)
- Fruit straw-colored, 10-toothed at the tip
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Sagina decumbens

Birdseye Pearlwort

- Cool-season annual
- 1 to 4 inches tall
- Leaves opposite, sessile, entire, linear
- Flowers white, tiny, four petals, one per axil
- Found in gardens and other cultivated areas
- **Photo Location:** Winrock Sod Farm west of Little Rock

Scleranthus annuus

Knawel

- Cool-season annual
- Leaves opposite, narrow, awl-shaped and sharp-pointed
- Leaves bend downward on the stem
- **Photo Location:** Arkansas Tech campus in Russellville

Silene latifolia

White Campion

- Perennial
- Flowers white
- The bloated female calyx makes Campion species easy to identify
- **Photo Location:** Nisswa, Minnesota

Silene virginica

Fire Pink

- Perennial
- Up to 2 feet tall
- Flowers red, petals with notched tips
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Livestock Research Farm, Batesville

Stellaria media

Common Chickweed

- Flowers white with five petals
- Each petal deeply lobed so that it appears there are 10 petals
- **Photo Location:** Hindman Park in Little Rock

Ceratophyllaceae

Ceratophyllum demersum

Coontail

- Perennial
- Resembles a raccoon's tail
- Submerged and free-floating
- Grows in ponds, lakes, streams and sluggish waters
- Occurs statewide
- Leaves fan-shaped, best observed in water
- Leaves have several small teeth on the midribs
- Teeth give the plant a rough feel when pulled through the hand
- **Photo Location:** Fayetteville

Chenopodiaceae

Chenopodium album

Lambsquarters

- Warm-season annual
- 1 to 5 feet tall
- Stems erect, branched, hairless, ridged, often striped with pink or purple
- Lower leaves goosefoot-shaped with jagged or irregular toothed margins
- Upper leaves usually smaller and lance-shaped, young leaves greenish-blue above and covered with a mealy secretion underneath
- **Photo Location:** railroad right-of-way near Little Rock

Chenopodium ambrosioides

Mexican Tea

- Annual, biennial or perennial herb
- Often found around livestock feeding areas
- Leaves alternate, margins wavy
- Smells bad when crushed
- Toxic
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Independence County

Commelinaceae

Commelina diffusa

Spreading Dayflower

- Warm-season annual
- Stems root at the nodes
- Leaves 2 to 4 inches long and alternate and lance-shaped, clasp the stem
- Flowers irregularly shaped, blue or purple (inset)
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Murdannia nudiflora

Doveweed

- Warm-season annual
- Stems root at the nodes
- Flowers purple appearing on short stalks in clusters (inset)
- Leaves linear and 1 to 4 inches long
- Leaf sheaths have soft hairs on the upper margins
- Occurs in wet areas
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Tradescantia ohiensis

Spiderwort

- Perennial
- Up to 30 inches tall
- Leaves grass-like, smooth or hairy and have a sharply keeled shape
- Flowers range from white to pale pink to purple to blue (depending on species) and have six yellow, hairy stamens
- **Photo Location:** along Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus arvensis

Field Bindweed

- Perennial vine
- Growth habit climbing or trailing
- Deep-rooted to 6 feet
- Leaves opposite, usually triangular
- Flowers white
- Toxic
- Difficult to control but not common in the state
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Fayetteville

Cuscuta pentagona

Dodder

- Warm-season annual
- The dodder plant starts independently but soon establishes a parasitic relationship with a host plant; all or nearly all of the chlorophyll (green material) is lost and the dodder plant appears as golden yellow strings sprawling and twining indiscriminately over the host plant with small suckers penetrating the host plant at intervals
- Leaves without chlorophyll, small and scale-like
- Flowers small, yellowish-white, in small clusters, originating in the leaf forks
- **Photo Location:** Interstate Park in Little Rock

Dichondra carolinensis

Dichondra

- Perennial
- Leaves alternate, kidney-shaped to nearly circular
- Sometimes called pony foot due to the shape of the leaves
- Flowers few, inconspicuous
- Sometimes cultivated as a ground cover
- Limited mostly to the southern half of the state
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Ipomoea hederacea

Ivy Leaf Morningglory

- Warm-season annual vine
- Stems hairy, twining or spreading on the ground
- Leaves three-lobed, alternate, hairy
- Flowers funnel-shaped, white, purple or pale blue, borne singly on long stalks
- Seedpods egg-shaped, partly covered by a bristly structure, usually with four to six seeds
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Fayetteville

Ipomoea lacunosa

Pitted Morningglory

- Warm-season annual vine
- Growth habit climbing or trailing
- Leaves simple and alternate with purple margins
- Flowers small and white
- Seeds black and shiny
- Weed of disturbed soil
- **Photo Location:** rice field near Gillett

Ipomoea purpurea

Tall Morningglory

- Warm-season annual vine
- Growth habit climbing or trailing
- Leaves hairy, alternate, simple, heart-shaped with entire margins
- Flowers purple, sometimes blue or white
- Toxic
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Ipomoea quamoclit

Cypress Vine Morningglory

- Warm-season annual vine
- Growth habit climbing or trailing
- Leaves finely divided
- Flowers dark red and funnel-shaped
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Fayetteville

Ipomoea wrightii

Palm Leaf Morningglory

- Warm-season annual vine
- Leaves usually five-lobed
- Flowers pink to light purple
- Only morningglory that grows under flooded conditions
- **Photo Location:** rice field near Gillett

Jacquemontia tamnifolia

Small Flower Morningglory

- Warm-season annual vine
- Emerges erect then becomes climbing or twining
- Leaves alternate, simple, margins entire
- Flowers blue, in clusters with fuzzy hairs
- **Photo Location:** watermelon field near Hope

Cucurbitaceae

Melothria pendula

Creeping Cucumber

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves alternate, three to five lobes with a sandpaper feel
- Flowers yellow
- Fruit rounded berries becoming black when ripe
- **Photo Location:** unknown County Extension office

Sicyos angulatus

Burcucumber

- Warm-season annual vine
- Leaves alternate, hairy, with five pointed lobes
- Fruit spiny (inset)
- **Photo Location:** unknown County Extension office

Cyperaceae (Sedges)

Carex blanda

Woodland Sedge

- Perennial
- Wide leaf blade
- Shade tolerant
- Seed head congested
- One of the first sedges to emerge, often in late March or early April
- Common in wooded areas or lawns with many trees
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Carex cephalophora

Oval Leaf Sedge

- Perennial
- Flowers oval or oblong, cluster at stem tips
- Fruit oval, flattened (inset)
- Can invade lawns
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Carex cherokeensis

Wolf Tail Sedge, Cherokee Sedge

- Perennial
- Stems triangular
- Drooping seed heads
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Carex crus-corvi

Raven's Foot Sedge, Crowfoot Sedge

- Perennial
- Stems triangular
- Leaves three-ranked
- **Photo Location:** Remmel Park boat ramp at Little Rock

Carex hyalinolepis

Shoreline Sedge

- Perennial
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- **Photo Location:** road ditch in Clark County, a few miles outside of Arkadelphia

Carex lupulina

Hop Sedge

- A native perennial that produces rhizomes
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- **Photo Location:** Remmel Park boat ramp at Little Rock

Cyperus compressus

Annual Sedge

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- Flat seed head with toothed margins
- More clumpy appearance than other sedges, especially when the population is sparse
- Emerges later in the spring than most sedges
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Hope

Cyperus croceus

Globe Sedge

- Perennial
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Cyperus erythrorhizos

Redroot Flatsedge

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- Reddish to purple roots
- Does not produce rhizomes or tubers
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Cyperus esculentus

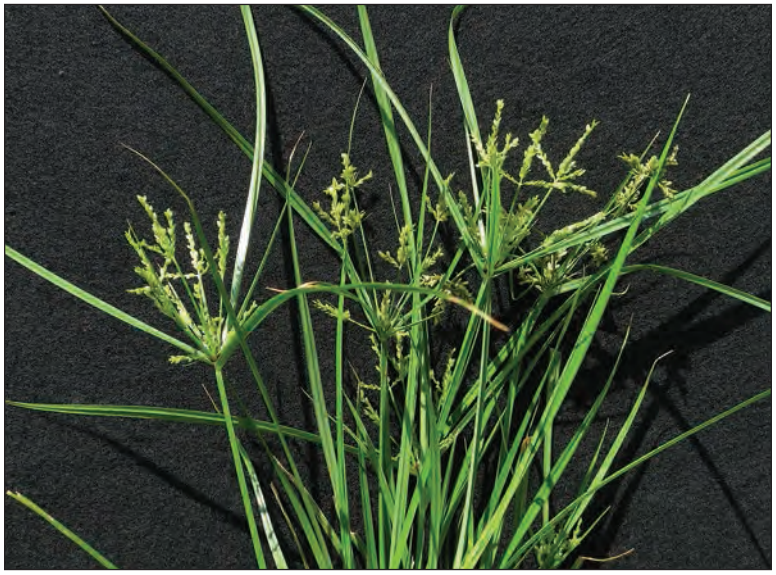
Yellow Nutsedge

- Perennial
- 1 to 2 feet tall
- Leaf tips sharp and pointed compared to purple nutsedge
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems pithy and triangular (inset)
- Produces rhizomes and tubers
- Tubers sweet to taste
- Seed head yellow when mature
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Cyperus iria

Rice Flatsedge

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- Common in disturbed soil
- Does not produce rhizomes or tubers
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock



Cyperus pseudovegetus

Knob Sedge

- Perennial
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- Inflorescence (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Country Club of Arkansas Golf Course, Maumelle

Cyperus retrorsus

Cylindric Sedge

- Perennial
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- Does not produce tubers
- **Photo Location:** War Memorial Park, Little Rock

Cyperus rotundus

Purple Nutsedge

- Perennial
- Leaves three-ranked
- Stems triangular
- Leaf tips blunter than those of yellow nutsedge
- Leaves darker green than yellow nutsedge
- Flowers a dull reddish-purple
- Produces tubers in chains connected by rhizomes
- Tubers dark-colored and bitter to taste
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Eleocharis microcarpa

Spikerush

- Warm-season annual
- Turf-like in growth
- Stems simple and round
- Leaves bladeless sheaths
- Solitary spikelets
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Kyllinga brevifolia

Green Kyllinga

- Perennial
- Triangular stems
- Leaves three-ranked
- Congested, round seed head sits on spikes
- Forms dense mats and survives low mowing including putting greens
- Prefers wet, poorly drained soils
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Dennistaedtiaceae

Pteridium aquilinum

Bracken Fern

- Perennial
- From rhizomes
- Fronds with entire margins
- Spores found on lower leaf margins
- Toxic to livestock
- **Photo Location:** Nisswa, Minnesota

Dipsacaceae

Dipsacus fullonum

Teasel

- Biennial
- Leaves opposite and pointed, up to 12 inches long
- Flowers tiny and lavender
- Bracts curve upward from below the head
- Native of Europe
- **Photo Location:** near Lexington, Kentucky

Ebenaceae

Diospyros virginiana

Persimmon

- Perennial
- Tree
- Native
- Invades neglected pastures
- Fruit eaten by many species of wildlife
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Faulkner County

Equisetaceae

Equisetum hyemale

Scouringrush

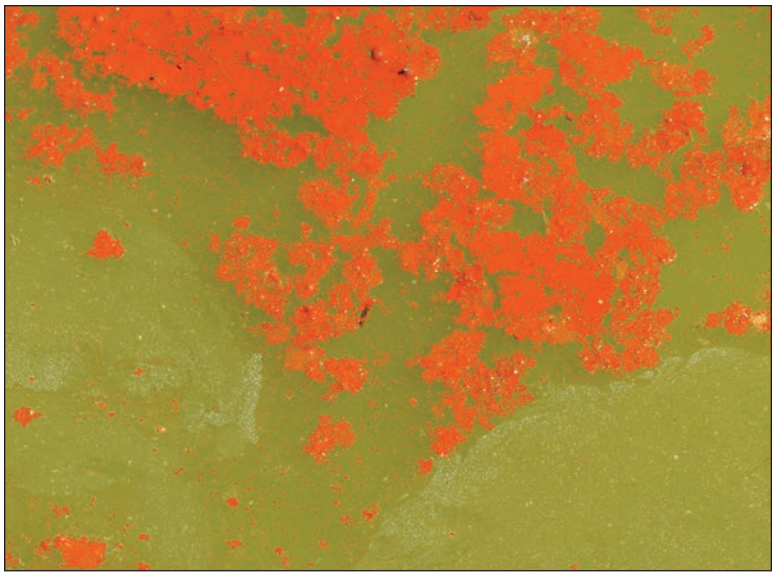
- Perennial
- Stems dark green, hollow, jointed or segmented, with no true leaves
- Stems may be singular or have whorls of branches
- Single stems produce the cone-shaped, spore-producing body at the tip (inset)
- Grows on land or in water
- Stem contains silicon crystals (sand) embedded in its tissue
- Used as a landscape ornamental
- **Photo Location:** Heifer International, Little Rock

Euglenophyaceae

Euglena spp.

Red Euglena

- Euglena is a single-celled organism common in aquatic farming ponds with high levels of organic matter
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff



Euphorbiaceae

Acalypha ostryifolia

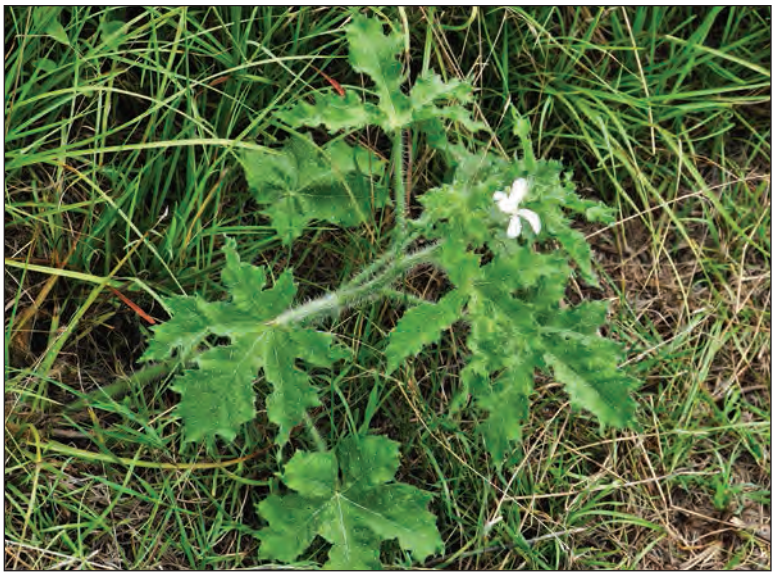
Hophornbeam Copperleaf

- Warm-season annual
- Plants dark green, erect, up to about 32 inches tall, usually freely branched from a fibrous root system
- Leaves alternate, long-stalked, simple, egg-shaped, toothed
- Flowers male and female borne on separate spikes
- Fruit splits at maturity, releasing the seeds
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Acalypha virginica

Virginia Copperleaf

- Warm-season annual
- 1 to 2 feet tall
- Stems hairy
- Leaves egg-shaped, on long petioles
- Flowers in clusters, small, borne in leaf axils in upper portion of stems and branches
- Seedpod contains three seeds
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock



Cnidosculus texanus

Texas Bullnettle

- Perennial
- Stinging nettles present
- Height 2 to 3 feet
- Taproot may extend to 6 feet deep
- Flowers white and about 1 inch wide
- Fruit spiny, three-celled capsules
- Seeds eaten by wildlife
- Prefers sandy soil in the southwestern part of the state
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Ouachita County

Croton capitatus

Woolly Croton

- Warm-season annual
- 1 to 2 feet tall
- Densely covered with whitish or tawny, minute, star-shaped hairs
- Leaves alternate
- Common in pastures
- Grazing animals avoid this plant
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Croton glandulosus

Tropic Croton

- Warm-season annual
- Up to 20 inches tall
- Leaves alternate with serrate margins
- Flowers white
- Cows avoid it
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Croton monanthogynus

Prairie Tea

- Warm-season annual
- Up to 24 inches tall and 36 inches across
- Leaves usually alternate and hairy
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Euphorbia cyathophora

Painted Poinsettia

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves alternate
- Stems with milky sap
- Leaf-like bracts with a showy red patch
- Mostly found in the Ozarks Region
- **Photo Location:** sidewalk in Little Rock

Euphorbia dentata

Toothed Spurge

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves opposite, coarsely toothed and hairy
- Stems with milky sap
- Toxic
- **Photo Location:** alley in Little Rock

Euphorbia humistrata

Prostrate Spurge

- Warm-season annual
- Found in landscape beds, container nurseries and along sidewalks and driveways
- Hugs the ground while forming large, almost perfectly round mats
- Stems ooze milky juice when broken (inset)
- Individual leaves oval, less than 0.25 inch in length, about half as wide and may have an oval purple spot along the midrib

Euphorbia nutans

Nodding Spurge

- Warm-season annual
- Erect growth habit compared to prostrate spurge
- Leaves opposite with a maroon or purple spot in the center
- Stems emit milky juice when broken (inset)
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Phyllanthus tenellus

Long-Stalked Phyllanthus

- Warm-season annual
- Fruit borne on a stalk (inset)
- Weed of container nurseries and landscapes
- Spreads readily via container nursery stock
- Chamberbitter (*Phyllanthus urinaria*) is more common in the state
- **Photo Location:** nursery in Wrightsville

Phyllanthus urinaria

Chamberbitter

- Warm-season annual
- Grows up to 3 feet tall
- Prolific seed producer
- Fruit borne along the underside of the leaf midrib (inset)
- Stems red to green
- Found most often in landscape beds, occasionally in lawns
- Spreads readily via container nursery stock
- **Photo Location:** State Extension Office in Little Rock

Ricinus communis

Castor Bean

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves with 5 to 11 lobes, margins with teeth
- Reaches a height of 8 feet or more
- Seeds toxic
- Grown as an ornamental
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Tragia ramosa

Noseburn

- Perennial
- About 12 inches tall
- Leaves simple, alternate with serrate margins
- Flowers yellow or green
- Fruit round, bristly capsules (inset)
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Sharp County

Fabaceae

Aeschynomene indica

Indian Jointvetch

- Warm-season annual
- 2 to 5 feet tall
- Leaves compound and fold when touched
- Flowers yellow with red veins
- Seed pods 1 to 3 inches long and segmented into 4 to 10 nearly square joints that separate easily at maturity
- Seeds kidney-shaped
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Research Farm north of Lonoke

Aeschynomene rudis

Rough Jointvetch

- Warm-season annual
- First true leaf is compound
- Stems have stiff hairs
- Flowers yellow with red veins
- **Photo Location:** road ditch on Highway 146 near Stuttgart

Albizia julibrissin

Mimosa

- Perennial
- Tree
- Leaves large and doubly compound
- Flowers pink and fuzzy
- Blooms throughout the summer
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Amorpha fruticosa

Indigobush

- Perennial
- Shrub
- May reach a height of 15 feet
- Flowers blue to purple
- Often found near water
- **Photo Location:** Murray Lock and Dam, Little Rock

Baptisia leucantha

Wild White Indigo

- Perennial
- Up to 5 feet in height
- Leaves trifoliate and waxy
- Flowers white
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Prescott

Chamaecrista fasciculata

Partridge Pea

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves compound
- Each leaflet is tipped with a tiny hair
- Flowers yellow with five petals
- Fruit like flattened pea pods
- Common on roadsides, ditch banks, rights-of-way and in waste areas
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Faulkner County

Crotalaria spectabilis

Showy Crotalaria

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves alternate, simple
- Flowers yellow
- Fruit long, cylindrical pods
- Contains toxic alkaloids
- **Photo Location:** University of Tennessee Milan Research Station

Desmanthus illinoensis

Illinois Bundleflower

- Perennial
- Leaves doubly compound
- Flowers white in round clusters
- Fruit curved into dense heads (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Gleditsia triacanthos

Honeylocust

- Perennial
- Tree
- Leaves compound
- Large branched thorns (inset)
- Trunk and lower limbs have thorns
- Fruit pods up to 12 inches long
- Frequent pasture weed
- **Photo Location:** Arkansas River levee near Scott

Lespedeza cuneata

Sericea Lespedeza

- Perennial
- Stems becoming tough and woody
- Common in pastures and roadside rights-of-way
- Nonnative
- Planted for erosion control and wildlife cover
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Hartman in Johnson County

Lespedeza striata (Kummerowia striata)

Common Lespedeza

- Warm-season annual
- Branches at the base and forms mats up to about 15 to 18 inches in diameter
- Veins on the leaflets prominent
- Flowers purple and inconspicuous
- An aggressive weed from a tough taproot
- Very common weed in areas of thin turf
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Medicago arabica

Spotted Burclover

- Perennial
- Leaves wedge-shaped with purple markings in the center
- Flowers yellow
- Fruit bur-like with many soft, curved prickles on the surface
- Frequent lawn weed
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Melolitus albus

White Sweet Clover

- Warm-season annual
- Flowers white
- Cultivated species that has become naturalized
- Grown for forage and soil stabilization
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Searcy County

Melolitus officinalis

Yellow Sweet Clover

- Warm-season annual
- Flowers yellow
- Cultivated species that has become naturalized
- Grown for forage and soil stabilization
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Searcy County

Mimosa quadrivalvis

Catclaw Sensitive Brier

- Perennial vine
- Leaves doubly compound
- Leaves collapse when touched
- Spines present on stems (inset)
- Flowers purple with yellow-tipped stamens
- Fruit flat, prickly pods
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Pueraria var. *lobata*

Kudzu

- Perennial
- Leaves trifoliate
- Flowers reddish-purple (inset)
- Climbs up and over other vegetation
- Introduced from Japan for erosion control
- **Photo Location:** Longhills Golf Course, Benton

Robinia pseudoacacia

Black Locust

- Perennial
- Tree
- Leaves doubly compound
- Flowers white
- Thorns short, thick and paired (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Securigera varia

Crownvetch

- Perennial
- Leaves compound
- Flowers pink or white
- 2 to 3 feet tall
- **Photo Location:** Rolla, Missouri

Senna obtusifolia

Sicklepod

- Warm-season annual
- Up to 40 inches tall
- Leaves compound with two to three pairs of leaflets
- Flowers yellow
- Fruit pods 4 to 7 inches long, strongly curved
- Seeds shiny, box-shaped with a diagonal stripe on each side
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Sesbania herbacea

Hemp Sesbania

- Warm-season annual
- Up to 12 to 15 feet tall
- Leaves compound with 12 to 25 pairs of leaflets
- Flowers yellow and usually mottled with purple
- Pods narrow, compressed, 6 to 12 inches long, with numerous seeds separated by cross partitions
- Seeds small and oblong, may be viable in the soil for many years
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Research Farm north of Lonoke on Highway 31

Sesbania vesicaria

Bladderpod

- Warm-season annual
- Up to 7 feet tall
- Leaves pinnately compound
- Flowers yellow with red edges
- Seedpods short and wide and contain two seeds (inset)
- Thought to be toxic to livestock
- **Photo Location:** Murray Lock and Dam, Little Rock

Strophostyles umbellata

Wild Bean

- Perennial
- Leaves trifoliate
- Flowers pink (inset)
- Fruit pods
- **Photo Location:** roadside at Little Rock airport

Tephrosia virginiana

Goat's Rue

- Perennial
- Leaves compound with dense pubescence
- Whitish-gray appearance
- Flowers purple
- Once thought to be an indicator of lead ore
- **Photo Location:** near Sullivan, Missouri

Trifolium arvense

Rabbit's Foot Clover

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 18 inches tall
- Flowers soft and feathery
- **Photo Location:** Remmel Park in Little Rock

Trifolium campestre

Large Hop Clover

- Cool-season annual
- Trifoliate leaves
- Leaves toothed from mid-blade to tips
- Hairy stems
- Flowers yellow

Trifolium dubium

Small Hop Clover

- Cool-season annual
- Trifoliate leaves
- Central leaflet is not stalked
- Flowers yellow (inset)
- Smaller than *Trifolium campestre*

Trifolium incarnatum

Crimson Clover

- Cool-season annual
- Trifoliate leaves
- Most commonly seen clover on roadsides
- Valuable as livestock forage and as a cover crop
- **Photo Location:** Interstate 40 right-of-way near Ozark

Trifolium pratense

Red Clover

- Perennial
- Stems stiff and hairy
- Leaves consist of three elliptical leaflets with a light green or white V-shaped watermark
- Flower heads round, pink to purple
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Station, Hope

Trifolium repens

White Clover

- Perennial clover with creeping stems that root at the nodes
- One of the 10 most common lawn weeds
- Flower stalks naked, about 5 to 7 inches long, supporting a spherical cluster of white flowers
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Trifolium resupinatum

Persian Clover

- Cool-season annual
- 10 to 24 inches tall
- Leaves trifoliate
- Flowers pink to light purple
- Inflated flower pods, pear-shaped where the teeth emerge
- Found in lawns, meadows, pastures and noncrop areas
- **Photo Location:** Remmel Park in Little Rock

Vicia villos spp. *varia*

Smooth Vetch

- Cool-season annual
- Native of Europe
- Climbs by means of slender tendrils
- Leaves compound
- Flowers purple
- **Photo Location:** right-of-way near Sullivan, Missouri

Vicia sativa

Common Vetch

- Perennial
- Plants about 1 to 2 feet tall
- Leaves compound with four to six pairs of tongue-shaped leaflets per leaf, each leaf terminated by a branched tendril
- Flowers blue-violet
- **Photo Location:** Remmel Park in Little Rock

Wisteria spp.

Wisteria

- Perennial vine
- Will climb over adjacent vegetation
- Leaves compound with entire margins
- Flowers white, purple or lavender
- Fruit pods
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Gentianaceae

Sabatia angularis

Rose Pink

- Biennial
- Up to 3 feet tall
- Leaves clasping
- Flowers with five petals, pink with yellow centers
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Hempstead County

Geraniaceae

Geranium carolinianum

Carolina Geranium

- Cool-season annual
- 3 to 18 inches tall
- Stems may be reddish
- Leaves deeply dissected
- Fruit beaked, about 0.25 to 0.5 inch long

Geranium molle

Dovefoot Geranium

- Cool-season annual
- Occurs in northwest Arkansas
- Flowers pink
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Fayetteville

Haloragaceae

Myriophyllum aquaticum

Parrotfeather

- Perennial
- Stems trail along the ground or water surface and become erect and leafy at the ends
- Leaves delicate, feathery, bright green
- Native to South America
- Blooms from spring to fall
- Sold in garden centers as an aquatic ornamental
- **Photo Location:** Country Club of Arkansas Golf Course, Maumelle

Heliotropiaceae

Heliotropium indicum

Indian Heliotrope

- Warm-season annual
- Occasional weed
- Flowers pale blue with orange centers
- Curved inflorescence
- Up to 3 feet tall, but usually 12 to 18 inches
- **Photo Location:** County Extension office, Pine Bluff

Hydrocharitaceae

Elodea canadensis

Elodea

- Perennial
- Submerged weed with leaves in whorls of three
- Elodea may be rooted or free-floating
- Smooth to the touch, unlike hydrilla
- Photo by Jerry Roach

Hydrilla verticillata

Hydrilla

- Submerged perennial
- Stems slender branched and up to 25 feet long
- Leaves strap-like and pointed
- Leaves in whorls of four to eight around the stem
- Leaf margins distinctly saw-toothed
- Often has one or more sharp teeth along the length of the leaf midrib
- Flowers white and tiny on long stalks
- Produces 0.25 inch turions at leaf axils and potato-like tubers attached to roots in mud
- **Photo Location:** Lake Ouachita State Park

Limnobium spongia

Frog's Bit

- Perennial
- Floating or rooted
- Leaves thick and leathery
- Leaves rounded, or in younger plants, somewhat heart-shaped with rounded lobes
- Younger leaves bright and shiny above, reddish underneath
- Undersides of young leaves have a central disk of red, spongy cells
- Leaf stalks have ridges on either side and are firm
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff

Hydroleaceae

Hydrolea ovata

Waterpod

- Perennial
- Sharp thorn at the base of leaves
- Will grow in water up to 6 feet deep
- Flowers blue and attractive
- Occasionally cultivated
- **Photo Location:** pond near Hartman in Johnson County

Hypericaceae

Hypericum mutilum

Small Flowered St. John's Wort

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves clasping
- Flowers small and yellow (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Country Club of Arkansas Golf Course, Maumelle

Hypericum pseudomaculatum

Spotted St. John's Wort

- Perennial
- Flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** Highway 5 right-of-way north of Calico Rock

Triadenum walteri

Marsh St. John's Wort

- Perennial
- Native
- Leaves opposite, simple, entire margins, oblong-shaped
- **Photo Location:** Country Club of Arkansas Golf Course, Maumelle

Iridaceae

Sisyrinchium albidum

Blue-Eyed Grass

- Perennial
- Grass-like foliage
- Flowers blue-violet (infrequently white) with six petals
- Four species occur commonly in Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** Hot Springs Country Club, Hot Springs

Sisyrinchium rosulatum

Annual Blue-Eyed Grass

- Cool-season annual
- Leaves flat and clustered at the base
- Flowers lavender to white with a purple ring in the center
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Juncaceae

Juncus diffusisimus

Slimpod Rush

- Perennial

Juncus effusus

Soft Rush

- Perennial
- Seed head (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Children's Library wetland, Little Rock

Juncus tenuis

Pathrush

- Perennial
- 6 to 20 inches tall
- Leaves narrow and grass-like, all at the base of the plant
- Flowers greenish or straw-colored, borne near the top of stems
- Fruit tiny pods that split open to release numerous minute orange seeds
- Occurs on sports fields, cart path margins and other compacted areas
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Luzula campestris

Woodrush

- Perennial
- 3 to 12 inches tall
- Lower leaves with soft, white hairs
- Flowers borne in several cone-like, reddish-brown or yellowish-brown clusters at the tip of the stem
- Flowers with six straw-textured, sharp-tipped petals
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Lamiaceae

Callicarpa americana

American Beautyberry

- Perennial
- Sprawling shrub
- Native
- Fruit purple berries appearing in fall
- Spreads rapidly by seed
- Fruit eaten by many species of wildlife
- Sometimes used as a landscape plant
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Clinopodium arkansanum

Arkansas Calamint

- Perennial
- Aromatic when crushed
- Flowers purple
- **Photo Location:** Highway 5 right-of-way north of Calico Rock

Glechoma hederacea

Ground Ivy

- Perennial
- Stems creeping and rooting at the nodes
- Leaves opposite, the nearly round blade bearing rounded teeth on the margin and borne on a long stalk
- Flowers blue-violet (inset)
- Occasional lawn weed in shady areas
- **Photo Location:** War Memorial Golf Course, Little Rock

Lamium amplexicaule

Henbit

- Cool-season annual
- 3 to 10 inches tall
- Leaves opposite
- Stems square or four-sided, a common characteristic of the mint family
- Upper leaves attached directly to the stem
- Lower leaves with petioles
- Flowers small, two-lipped, purple (rarely white)
- **Photo Location:** War Memorial Golf Course, Little Rock

Lamium purpureum

Purple Deadnettle

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 14 inches tall
- Similar to henbit
- Leaves with petioles
- Leaves commonly reddish- or purplish-tinged
- Flowers purplish
- **Photo Location:** War Memorial Golf Course, Little Rock

Monarda bradburiana

Eastern Beebalm

- Perennial
- Flowers pink to white
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Monarda punctata

Dotted Monarda

- Perennial
- Flowers yellow-dotted with purplish spots
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Perilla frutescens

Perilla Mint

- Warm-season annual
- Toxic to livestock
- Stems square or four-sided
- Leaves produce a strong mint odor when crushed
- Leaves simple, opposite, with serrate margins, often purplish
- Prefers shaded areas under trees and along fencerows and streams
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Prunella vulgaris

Heal-All

- Perennial
- 6 to 15 inches tall
- Leaves opposite
- Flowers violet to lavender
- Found mostly on undisturbed soil
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Blevins in Hempstead County

Pycnantheumum tenuifolium

Mountain Mint

- Perennial
- Up to 3 feet tall
- Leaves slender and opposite
- Stems hairless
- Flowers small, lavender to white
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Hartman in Johnson County

Salvia lyrata

Lyre-Leaved Sage

- Perennial
- Stems square
- Leaves at ground level in a rosette
- Leaves 3 to 6 inches long, nearly entire to often coarsely lobed, often tinged with purple (inset)
- Flowers tube-shaped, blue or purplish-blue
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Stachys floridana

Florida Betony

- Perennial
- Stem square or four-sided
- 6 to 20 inches tall
- Plants grow from large, white, ring-constricted tubers (inset)
- Leaves opposite, toothed, elliptic and hairy
- Flowers trumpet-shaped, two-lipped and white to pink to purple
- Weed of landscape beds in southern Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** yard in Camden

Teucrium canadense

Germander

- Perennial
- Up to 4 feet tall
- Leaves opposite with toothed margins
- Stems square with fine hairs
- May produce rhizomes and tubers
- Flowers lavender to pink
- **Photo Location:** ditch at office park near Rodney Parham and Cantrell Road

Lemnaceae

Lemna minor

Duckweed

- Perennial
- Tiny, green, floating plants
- Found in still or sluggish waters
- Forms large, floating mats
- Each plant has two to several leaves joined at the base
- A single root hangs beneath
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff

Wolffia spp.

Watermeal

- Perennial
- Tiny, floating, rootless
- Watermeal is the small plant in the photo mixed with common duckweed (*Lemna*) and giant duckweed (*Spirodela*)
- At 1 to 1.5 mm long, it is the smallest flowering plant
- Watermeal is barely discernible to the naked eye and occurs almost always under natural conditions in wetlands
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff

Liliaceae

Allium vineale

Wild Garlic

- Perennial
- Cool-season
- Arises from a bulb that forms small offsets
- Stems hollow
- Produces garlic odor when crushed
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Muscari racemosum

Starch Grape Hyacinth

- Perennial
- Bulb-forming
- 4 to 8 inches tall
- Leaves onion-like
- Cultivated and escapes locally in Arkansas
- Flowers blue-violet at the tip of a leafless stalk
- Each flower is more or less bottle-shaped and droops downward from a hair-like short stalk
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Nothoscordum bivalve

False Garlic

- Perennial
- Bulb-forming
- Lacking an onion odor
- 5 to 12 inches tall
- Flowers whitish in a cluster at the stem tip
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Ornithogalum umbellatum

Star-of-Bethlehem

- Perennial
- Bulb-forming
- 5 to 9 inches tall
- Leaves all at the base of the plant, narrow and grass-like, but blunt at the tip and fleshy
- Flowers white and borne in a cluster at the stem tip
- Each petal with a green strip down the middle on the back
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Trillium sessile

Sessile Trillium

- Perennial
- Leaves without petioles
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Baxter County

Linderniaceae

Lindernia dubia

False Pimpernel

- Warm-season annual
- 4 to 8 inches tall
- Leaves with smooth margins
- Flowers white or pale lavender
- Seed pods 0.1 to 0.2 inch long, contain many brown or yellow seeds
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Loganiaceae

Gelsemium sempervirens

Carolina Jasmine

- Perennial
- Native woody vine
- Leaves shiny, pointed, narrow, evergreen
- Stems smooth, reddish-brown
- Flowers bright yellow
- Popular landscape plant

Lythraceae

Ammannia coccinea

Redstem

- Warm-season annual
- Stems square
- 8 to 40 inches tall
- Leaves narrow, about 0.5 inch wide and 1 to 4 inches long
- Flowers borne in leaf axils or at the junction of the leaf stalk and stem (inset)
- Plants turn red at maturity
- **Photo Location:** Rice Research Station, Stuttgart

Decodon verticillatus

Swamp Loosestrife

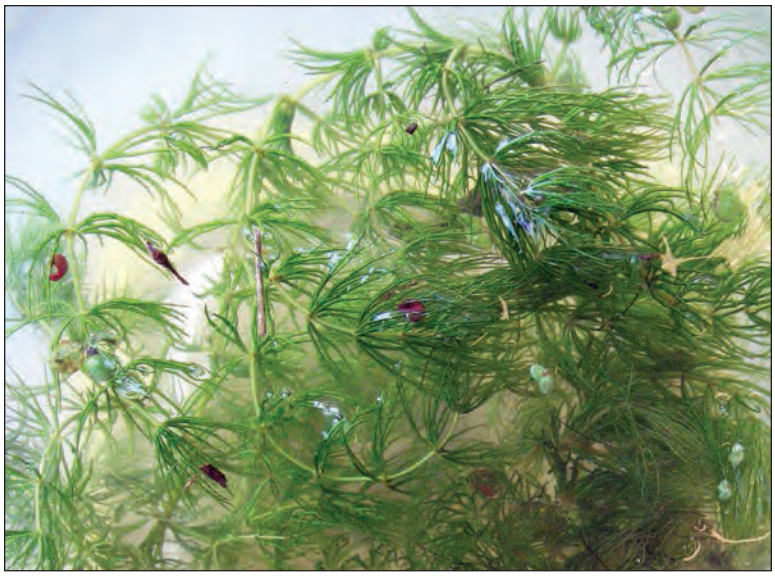
- Perennial
- Shrub
- Leaves opposite
- Flowers pink, located in the leaf axils
- **Photo Location:** Arkansas Post National Memorial near Gillett

Macroalgae

Chara spp.

Chara

- Chara is a large green alga rooted in flooded soil
- Stem is symmetrically branched from evenly spaced, cylindrical whorls at joints
- May be covered with calcareous deposits, making them feel gritty and coarse
- When crushed between the fingers, a bad-smelling, musky odor is released similar to that of garlic or a skunk
- Found in borrow ditches, shallow canals, rice fields
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff

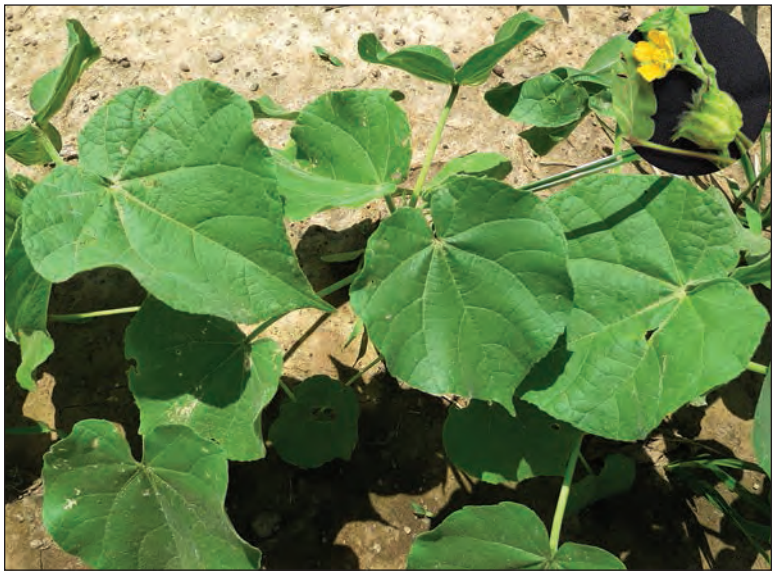


Malvaceae

Abutilon theophrasti

Velvetleaf

- Warm-season annual
- 3 to 7 feet tall
- Leaves heart-shaped, 2 to 5 inches wide and covered on both sides with thick hairs, which give them a velvety appearance and feel
- Flowers yellow about 1 inch across and borne in the forks of the leaves
- The broad, conspicuous pods (inset) contain numerous dull-gray seeds covered with small, bran-like scales
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Fayetteville



Hibiscus moscheutos

Rose Mallow

- Perennial
- 2 to 5 feet tall
- Leaves with pointed lobes
- Common in wet areas along roadsides in the eastern half of the state
- **Photo Location:** Highway 391 right-of-way near Galloway

Hibiscus trionum

Venice Mallow

- Warm-season annual
- Stems erect or spreading, hairy
- 8 to 20 inches tall
- Leaves alternate, irregularly shaped, with three to seven parts
- Flowers 1 to 2 inches in diameter with five petals, pale yellow or whitish with a purplish-black center
- Petals often have a purple margin
- Flowers remain open for only a few hours
- Seedpod hairy, contains many seeds
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Fayetteville

Malva neglecta

Common Mallow

- Perennial
- Usually near buildings in partial shade
- Stems about 6 to 12 inches long
- Leaves roundish and long-stalked
- Flowers small, lilac, soon forming fruit that looks like a peeled orange with about 15 orange slices
- Limited to the northwestern quarter of Arkansas
- Blooms May to June
- **Photo Location:** near Lexington, Kentucky

Modiola caroliniana

Bristly Mallow

- Perennial
- Stems often 1 to 3 feet long
- Leaves alternate, deeply five- to seven-lobed, each of the lobes toothed
- Flowers bright orange to deep purplish-pink (inset)
- Limited to the southern half of Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Sida spinosa

Prickly Sida

- Warm-season annual
- Stems with two to three spiny projections below each joint
- Leaves alternate, simple, oblong, with toothed edges
- Flowers with five pale yellow petals
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Marchantiaceae

Marchantia polymorpha

Liverwort

- Not a vascular plant, but a primitive plant related to mosses
- Thrives in constantly wet conditions, especially if nutrients are available
- Occasional problem on greenhouse floors and on the surface of nursery stock containers
- *Marchantia* is the only liverwort out of several thousand species that is a weed in nurseries
- **Photo Location:** Mammoth Spring

Martyniaceae

Proboscidea louisianica

Devil's Claw

- Warm-season annual
- Stems fleshy
- Leaves round to heart-shaped
- Flowers pink to white, spotted with yellow and purple
- Fruit long and beaked
- Produces a smelly mucus and a tacky residue when handled

Melastomaceae

Rhexia mariana

Maryland Meadow Beauty

- Perennial
- Leaves opposite
- Stems hairy
- Flowers pink, purple or white
- Long, curved anthers

Menispermaceae

Cocculus carolinus

Redberry Moonseed

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- Fruit red berries when ripe
- Leaves alternate, more or less triangular
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Molluginaceae

Mollugo verticillata

Carpetweed

- Warm-season annual
- Weed of disturbed soil
- Forms flat, circular mats on the soil surface
- Leaves light green, smooth, tongue-like, grouped together in spread clusters or whorls of five to seven at each joint
- Flowers small and white with several at each joint
- Seeds orange-red
- **Photo Location:** Ouachita Baptist University baseball field, Arkadelphia

Moraceae

Fatuoa villosa

Mulberry Weed

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves and stems hairy, rough to touch
- Leaves with serrate margins
- Flowers purple, in clusters
- Prolific seed producer that spreads rapidly in landscape beds
- Can expel seeds up to 4 feet
- Often moved in container nursery stock
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Maclura pomifera

Osage Orange

- Perennial
- Tree
- Spiny (inset)
- Often found in fencerows and is used for fence posts, highest BTU rating of any woody species in North America
- Common to the blackland areas of southwest Arkansas
- Milky sap
- Fruit round, green, solid, up to 7 inches in diameter
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Hartman in Johnson County

Nelumbonaceae

Nelumbo lutea

American Lotus

- Perennial
- Leaves may be above the water or floating
- Leaves circular and do not have a notch, as do water lily leaves
- Leaves on a long, stiff stalk that is connected to the leaf at the very center of the leaf, umbrellalike
- Flowers luminescent yellow, extremely large, typically 6 inches wide
- Seedpods funnel-shaped, flat-topped, pitted
- Seedpods sometimes used in floral arrangements
- **Photo Location:** Arkansas Post National Memorial near Gillett

Nymphaceae

Ludwigia palustris

Waterprimrose

- Warm-season annual or perennial
- One of the most common aquatic plants in the state
- Many species occur in Arkansas
- Growth may be erect or trailing
- One form has willow-shaped leaves
- Flowers yellow, 1 to 2 inches in diameter with four or five petals
- **Photo Location:** Hindman Golf Course, Little Rock

Nuphar luteum

Spatterdock

- Perennial
- Common throughout the state
- Leaves notched and roughly heart-shaped
- Rhizomes large and spongy
- Flowers yellow
- **Photo Location:** Lake Conway

Nymphaea odorata

Fragrant Water Lily

- Perennial
- Leaves arise on stalks from long rhizomes in the mud, circular, notched to the center
- Flowers white, showy and aromatic
- Hybrid water lilies may have flowers of unusual color and shape
- **Photo Location:** Round Lake, Nisswa, Minnesota

Oleaceae

Ligustrum spp.

Privet

- Perennial
- Shrub
- Native of Europe
- Leaves evergreen
- Flowers white in long clusters, fragrant
- Spreads readily by seed
- Fruit purple berries when ripe (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Onagraceae

Guara demareei

Guara

- Warm-season annual
- Up to 7 feet tall
- Leaves small and pointed
- Flowers white (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Murray Lock and Dam, Little Rock

Oenothera biennis

Common Primrose

- Biennial
- May reach a height of 8 feet
- Leaves alternate
- Forms a basal rosette of leaves the first year
- Flowers large and yellow
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Oenothera laciniata

Cut-Leaf Evening Primrose

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 12 inches tall
- Leaves alternate, bearing several teeth on the margins (the upper leaves more deeply and more regularly toothed than the lower leaves)
- Flowers pale yellow (becoming rose-colored with age) with four petals and eight stamens (insets)
- Common to disturbed soil
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Fayetteville

Oenothera speciosa

White Evening Primrose

- Perennial
- 12 to 18 inches tall
- Stems hairy
- Leaves wavy-edged
- Flowers white or pink with yellow centers and pink veins
- Common on roadsides
- **Photo Location:** Interstate 30 right-of-way near Hope

Orobanchaceae

Castilleja coccinea

Indian Paintbrush

- Perennial
- 12 to 24 inches tall
- Leaves and stems hairy
- Flowers orange to red
- Occurs statewide
- **Photo Location:** Interstate 40 right-of-way west of Clarksville

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis stricta

Common Yellow Woodsorrel

- Perennial
- 3 to 9 inches tall
- Leaves divided into three leaflets; leaflets heart-shaped, partly folded
- Leaves have sour taste
- Flowers bright yellow with five petals (inset)
- Stalks turn down and the okra-like fruit remains erect, forming an elbow just beneath the fruit
- Small rhizomes give rise to nearby plants
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Oxalis debilis

Pink Oxalis

- Perennial
- Flowers violet to rose (inset)
- Leaves alternate with three leaflets
- Leaflets heart-shaped
- Leaves have a definite sour taste
- Produces small white bulbs
- Sometimes used as an ornamental
- **Photo Location:** landscape bed in Little Rock

Papaveraceae

Sanguinaria canadensis

Bloodroot

- Perennial
- Leaves deeply lobed
- Roots have bright red juice
- Flowers white with 8 to 10 petals
- **Photo Location:** National Arboretum, Washington, DC

Passifloraceae

Passiflora incarnata

Maypop Passionflower

- Perennial
- Leaves with three lobes
- Flowers showy, purple and white
- Five drooping yellow stamens
- Fruit green berries (inset)
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Searcy County

Passiflora lutea

Yellow Passionflower

- Perennial
- Often growing several feet long
- Leaves alternate, three-lobed, wider than long, whitish-green on the lower surface, hairless, with three prominent veins
- Flowers pale yellow
- Fruit berry-like, at first green becoming dark purple and several-seeded
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Pauwloniaceae

Paulownia tomentosa

Princess Tree

- Perennial
- Tree
- Introduced from China
- Reaches a height of 30 to 40 feet
- Leaves opposite, large, hairy and heart-shaped
- Flower pinkish-lavender
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Phrymaceae

Mazus pumilus

Asian Mazus

- Cool-season annual
- Stems spreading, about 2 to 5 inches long, branched basally
- Leaves opposite, tongue-shaped, 0.5 to 1.0 inch long, with a few tiny, blunt teeth
- Flowers two-lipped, blue with a yellowish or whitish throat (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Ridgeway Street in Little Rock

Phytolaccaceae

Phytolacca americana

Pokeweed

- Perennial
- Leaves alternate
- 3 to 6 feet tall
- Flowers small, white
- Fruit purple to black berries (inset)
- Older plants poisonous
- **Photo Location:** abandoned field near Scott

Plantaginaceae

Bacopa rotundifolia

Disc Waterhyssop

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves thin, round, clasping at the base and palmately veined
- Stems 8 to 24 inches long, grow with bases submerged and tips floating, hairy when young
- Flowers white with a yellow throat
- **Photo Location:** Rice Research Station, Stuttgart

Nuttallanthus canadensis

Old Field Toadflax, Blue Toadflax

- Cool-season annual
- 12 to 18 inches tall
- Flowers light blue
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Plantago aristata

Bracted Plantain

- Perennial
- Leaves narrow and grass-like, softly hairy
- Common to waste areas and roadsides
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way south of Fulton

Plantago lanceolata

Buckhorn Plantain

- Perennial
- 1 or 2 feet tall
- Basal rosette of leaves
- Leaves broadly grass-like to elliptical
- Leaves have five prominent veins
- Seed head (inset)
- Common to roadsides and undisturbed areas
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Blevins in Hempstead County

Plantago rugelii

Blackseed Plantain

- Perennial
- 5 to 10 inches tall
- Leaves smooth, oval to elliptical and purplish at the base of the leaf stalk
- Leaf blade often 1 to 3 inches wide with five prominent veins
- Very common in shady areas of thin turf
- **Photo Location:** War Memorial Park, Little Rock

Plantago virginica

Paleseed Plantain

- Cool-season annual
- 3 to 9 inches tall
- Leaves hairy and tongue-shaped, arranged in a cluster at ground level
- Flowers forming a cattail-like cluster
- Common waste area weed occasionally found in areas of thin turf
- **Photo Location:** nursery in Wrightsville

Veronica arvensis

Corn Speedwell

- Cool-season annual
- Leaves small, rounded and toothed
- Flowers bright blue with white throats
- Seed pods heart-shaped
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Poaceae

Agrostis elliotiana

Elliot's Bentgrass

- Annual
- Seed head feathery
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Logan County

Alopecurus carolinianus

Carolina Foxtail

- Cool-season annual
- 4 to 12 inches tall
- Flowers in a greenish foxtail inflorescence
- Moist meadows and lawns
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Arkadelphia

Andropogon virginicus

Broomsedge

- Perennial
- Native
- Bunch grass
- Greens up about the same time as bermudagrass
- Common to poor, under-fertilized pastures and roadsides
- Sometimes a fire hazard in forestry
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Lexington, Kentucky

Anthoxanthum odoratum

Sweet Vernal Grass

- Cool-season annual
- Has a sweet aroma when crushed
- Occasional weed in bermudagrass hayfields
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Logan County

Aristida oligantha

Prairie Three-Awn

- Warm-season annual
- Stems tufted, wiry, branched near the base and at the nodes, mostly smooth
- Leaves narrow, flat, taper to a point, mostly smooth
- Flower bract bears a three-segmented awn
- Stems tough and difficult to mow
- Occurs in areas of thin turf, roadsides and waste areas
- **Photo Location:** Highway 371 right-of-way near Blevins

Arundo donax

Giant Reed

- Perennial
- Stems 10 to 20 feet tall
- Leaf blades to 3 feet long
- Ligules large, papery
- Flowers to 2 feet long, feathery, whitish to brown
- Rhizomes the primary means of spread
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock
- Larger than *Phragmites australis*, Common Reed

Bothriochloa laguroides

Silver Beardgrass

- Perennial
- Leaves pale green
- Flowers white and feathery (inset)
- Makes a distinctive white mass when blooming
- Found along roadsides, especially in north central and northeast parts of the state
- Several large stands along Highway 67 south of Newport
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way near Fulton

Briza minor

Little Quakingrass

- Cool-season annual
- 5 to 20 inches tall
- Moist meadows and disturbed sites
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Greenbrier

Bromus tectorum

Downy Brome

- Cool-season annual
- 12 to 24 inches tall
- Auricles at the base of the blades
- Flower clusters often drooping (inset)
- Upper leaf sheaths usually short, hairy
- **Photo Location:** Highway 5 right-of-way near Calico Rock

Bromus secalinus

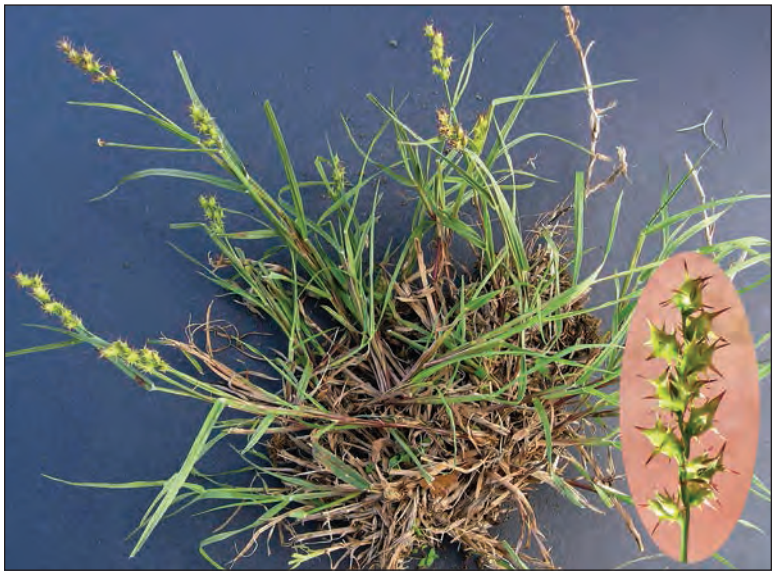
Cheat

- Cheat (right), Downy Brome (left)
- Cool-season annual
- 18 to 24 inches tall
- Auricles present
- Upper leaf sheath hairless
- **Photo Location:** Highway 5 right-of-way near Calico Rock

Cenchrus longispinus

Sandbur

- Warm-season annual or weak perennial from crowns
- 6 to 24 inches tall
- Stems may root at the nodes
- Spiny burs borne at the tip of the stem (inset)
- Each bur contains three seeds
- Seedlings may emerge all season
- Common in areas of sandy soil
- Frequent in the Arkansas River Valley west from Little Rock
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Dardanelle



Danthonia spicata

Poverty Oatgrass

- Cool-season perennial
- Stems smooth, slender and erect
- Seed head (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Ridgeway Street in Little Rock

Cynodon dactylon

Bermudagrass

- Perennial
- Produces rhizomes and stolons
- 4 to 16 inches tall
- Seed head finger-like (inset) with four to seven fingers
- Most common lawn grass in the state
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Zoysia japonica

Zoysiagrass

- Perennial
- Leaf blades sharp-pointed
- Leaves stiff, somewhat harder to mow due to a high silica content
- Vernation rolled
- Ligules a fringe of hairs
- Auricles absent
- Produces rhizomes and stolons
- Has upright hairs on the leaf blade
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Eremochloa ophiuroides

Centipedegrass

- Perennial
- Slow growing
- Produces stolons but not rhizomes
- Common turfgrass in the southern half of the state
- Leaves alternate, St. Augustinegrass leaves opposite
- Leaves more pointed than St. Augustinegrass
- Seed head (inset)
- Adapted to low-fertility conditions
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Stenotaphrum secundatum

St. Augustinegrass

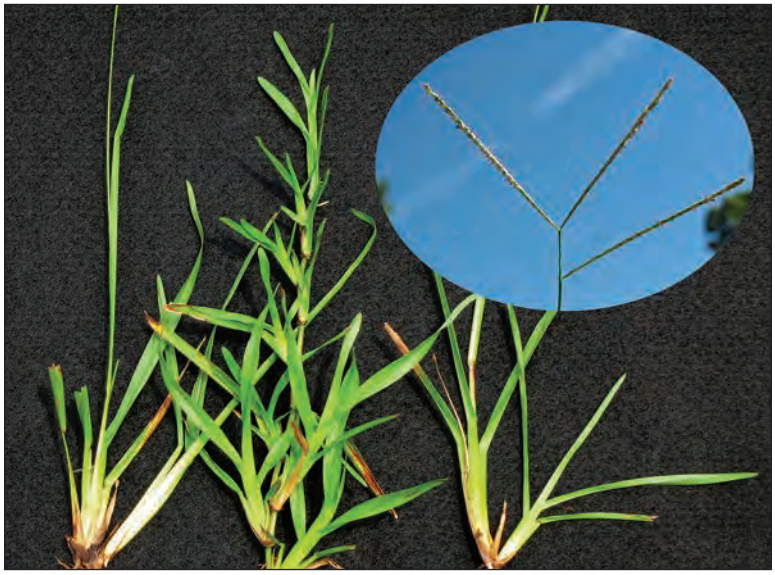
- Perennial
- Common in southern half of Arkansas
- Leaves opposite, wide with blunt tips
- Produces stolons but not rhizomes
- Seeds not viable
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

- St. Augustinegrass (left) has opposite leaves with blunt tips while Centipedegrass (right) has alternate leaves with pointed tips

Axonopus fissifolius

Carpetgrass

- Perennial
- Seed head usually two or three narrow, finger-like flower clusters
- The top two spikelets arise at the same point forming a V (inset)
- Leaves blunt or rounded at the tip
- Limited mostly to the southern half of the state
- Often confused with St. Augustinegrass
- **Photo Location:** Longhills Golf Course, Benton



Poa annua

Annual Bluegrass

- Cool-season annual
- Leaves boat-shaped at tip (inset)
- Ligules membranous
- Vernation folded
- Seed head whitish
- Two distinct clear lines, one on each side of the midrib
- **Photo Location:** War Memorial Golf Course, Little Rock

Poa bulbosa

Bulbous Bluegrass

- Perennial
- The only grass known to have true bulbs
- Height 6 to 24 inches
- Leaf blades narrow, flat or loosely rolled, with membranous ligules, boat-shaped tip (inset)
- Stems few
- Flowers modified to bulblets with a dark purple base
- The bulblets typically mature in early May, and soon after the grass senesces
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas campus, Fayetteville

Poa pratensis

Kentucky Bluegrass

- Perennial
- Height 12 to 24 inches
- Leaf tips boat-shaped (inset)
- Flower cluster is open and pyramid-shaped
- Reproduces by seeds and underground stems
- Much larger than annual bluegrass
- Found in lawns and similar turfgrass areas
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Schedonorus arundinaceus

Tall Fescue

- Perennial
- Bunch-type growth habit
- Leaf margins rough to touch (inset)
- Ligules white and membranous
- Auricles short, ear-like or claw-like
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Lolium spp.

Ryegrass

- Cool-season annual or perennial
- 1 to 2 feet tall
- Auricles prominent
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Fayetteville

Dactyloctenium aegyptium

Crowfootgrass

- Warm-season annual
- Vernation rolled
- Ligules narrow, fringed membranes
- Rows of hairs extending outward from the margin on lower portion of leaf blade (inset)
- Not common in Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** Marco Island, Florida

Dactylis glomerata

Orchardgrass

- Perennial
- Bunch grass
- 2 to 3 feet tall
- Stems hairless
- Seed head distinctive
- **Photo Location:** Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Dichanthelium oligosanthes var. *scribnerianum*

Velvet Panic Grass

- Warm-season perennial
- Leaves and stems with dense, soft hairs
- Roots at the nodes
- Very common grass on poor fertility soils
- Occurs statewide
- Submitted to Cooperative Extension for identification more than any other plant
- Similar species of *Dichanthelium* occur in Arkansas pastures and woodlands
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Ouachita County

Dichanthelium sphaerocarpon

Roundseed Rosettegrass

- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Digitaria sanguinalis

Large Crabgrass

- Warm-season annual
- 6 to 30 inches tall
- Finger-like seed head with three to eight fingers (inset)
- Leaf sheaths hairy
- Stems root at the nodes
- Probably the most common lawn, turf and garden weed
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Eleusine indica

Goosegrass

- Warm-season annual
- 4 to 20 inches tall
- Hairless
- Stems may be white near center
- Seed head finger-like (inset)
- Occurs in compacted areas
- Near cart paths, putting greens on golf courses
- **Photo Location:** War Memorial Golf Course, Little Rock

Elymus spp.

Wild Rye

- Cool-season annual
- 2 to 3 feet tall
- Drooping seed head
- Seed head with long, bristly awns
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Hot Spring County

Eragrostis cilianensis

Stinkgrass

- Warm-season annual
- 6 to 18 inches tall
- Seed head grayish turning to purple as it matures
- Plants stink when fresh
- Common in areas of thin turf, on roadsides and in waste areas
- **Photo Location:** sod farm near McRae

Eragrostis pectinacea

Tufted Lovegrass

- Warm-season annual
- 5 to 15 inches tall
- Stems very fine-textured
- Common invader on sod farms after harvest
- **Photo Location:** sod farm near McRae

Hordeum pusillum

Little Barley

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 24 inches tall
- Ligules membranous
- Seed head bristly and foxtail-like
- Very common in pastures
- Sometimes a lawn weed
- **Photo Location:** pasture north of Conway

Leersia oryzoides

Rice Cutgrass

- Perennial
- Reproduces from long, slender rhizomes and seeds
- Leaves long and very rough or sharp on edges
- Bristles on stems (inset)
- Stems circular and branched
- Grows in wet areas
- **Photo Location:** Lake Conway

Echinochloa colona

Junglerice

- Warm-season annual
- Prostrate growth habit
- 18 to 36 inches tall
- Leaves and sheaths hairless
- Ligules absent, usually awnless
- Purple bands on leaves separate this species from barnyardgrass
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Echinochloa crus-galli

Barnyardgrass

- Warm-season annual
- 18 to 36 inches tall
- More upright than junglerice
- Leaves and sheaths hairless
- Ligules absent
- Bristly hairs may be present on seed head
- Highly variable in appearance
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Urochloa platyphylla

Broadleaf Signalgrass

- Warm-season annual
- Leaf blades wide
- Midvein inconspicuous
- Will grow in standing water
- **Photo Location:** rice field in Lonoke County

Leptochloa fusca var. *fasicularis*

Bearded Sprangletop

- Warm-season annual
- Ligule a membrane
- No auricles
- Midvein inconspicuous
- Uppermost leaf sheath often longer than seed head
- Rice field weed
- **Photo Location:** rice field near Gillett

Leptochloa panicea

Red Sprangletop

- Warm-season annual
- Tillers profusely
- 2 to 3 feet tall
- Leaf sheaths often red
- Ligules fringed and membranous
- Leaves have white midveins extending almost to the tip
- Seed head threadlike, loose and drooping
- **Photo Location:** rice field near Gillett

Leptochloa panicoides

Amazon Sprangletop

- Warm-season annual
- Ligules a membrane
- Leaves have prominent green midveins
- Seed head resembles a Christmas tree
- **Photo Location:** rice field near Lonoke

Panicum dichotomiflorum

Fall Panicum

- Warm-season annual
- 12 to 48 inches tall
- Bent stems, thick, compressed sheaths
- Midvein prominent, off-center, leaf surface smooth
- Vernation rolled
- Auricles absent
- Ligules a fringe of hairs
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Muhlenbergia schreberi

Nimblewill

- Perennial
- 6 to 18 inches tall
- Leaves narrow and striated (left inset)
- Seed head narrow and elongated (right inset)
- Grows in shady areas
- Often mistaken for a shade-tolerant bermudagrass
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Panicum anceps

Beaked Panic Grass

- Perennial
- Rhizomes long and creeping
- Leaf margins rough to touch
- Prefers wet, disturbed areas

Panicum capillare

Witchgrass

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves and sheaths densely hairy
- Leaves soft, flat and wide, with a white midrib
- Ligules a fringe of short hair
- Flower cluster is 8 to 10 inches long and breaks off at maturity becoming a tumbleweed
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Clarksville

Paspalum distichum

Knotgrass

- Perennial
- Stems solid, hair at nodes
- Grows on land and in water
- Stolons often grow to 25 feet
- Leaf blades relatively short, 1 to 3 inches long
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff

Paspalum dilatatum

Dallisgrass

- Perennial
- 1 to 3 feet tall
- Leaves wide and coarse
- Short, thick rhizomes
- Ligules tall and membranous
- Leaf midvein prominent
- Seed head (inset)
- **Photo Location:** lawn in Little Rock

Paspalum notatum

Bahiagrass

- Perennial
- Rhizomes thick, scaly and often exposed
- Stems range from 6 to 24 inches tall
- Seed head forms a V (inset)
- Occasionally a third spikelet on seed head
- Primarily found in southern Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Paspalum urvillei

Vaseygrass

- Perennial
- Erect, clump-forming grass
- 1.5 to 6 feet tall
- Short, thick, knotty rhizomes
- Ligules tall, pointed and membranous
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Hope

Piptochaetium avenaceum

Blackseed Speargrass

- Perennial
- 1 to 3 feet tall
- Ligule a rounded membrane
- Seeds needle-like
- Awns twice bent and twisted
- Seeds can cause infections if they enter the nose, mouth or ears of animals
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Pike County

Setaria faberi

Giant Foxtail

- Warm-season annual
- Stems long, slender, weak and have large pronounced nodes
- Leaves flat, wide, pointed and covered with hair on the upper surface
- Seed head dense, cylindrical, bristly and 3 to 8 inches long
- Easy to distinguish from other foxtails by its drooping seed head
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus

Setaria geniculata

Knotroot Foxtail

- Perennial
- Warm-season
- 6 to 36 inches tall
- Short, knotty rhizomes (inset)
- Most common foxtail in Arkansas
- Seed head a bristly foxtail
- Seed head appears late June to July
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Faulkner County

Sorghum halepense

Johnsongrass

- Perennial
- Warm-season
- 2 to 6 feet tall
- Rhizomes numerous, scaly and sharp-pointed
- Leaves smooth, to 20 inches long, with prominent white midrib
- Seed head large and purplish
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Steinchisma hians

Gaping Grass

- Perennial
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Research Farm north of Lonoke off Highway 31

Tridens flavus

Purpletop

- Perennial
- Grows in tight, erect bunches to heights of up to 5 feet
- Easily identified by a tuft of stiff, short hair on either side of the collar (inset)
- Stem is sticky below the flower
- Flower heads up to 15 inches long and purple
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Grant County

Tridens strictus

Narrow Tridens

- Perennial
- 2 to 4 feet tall
- Seed heads narrow and brown
- Roadsides, pastures
- Statewide
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Grant County

Tripsacum dactyloides

Eastern Gamagrass

- Perennial
- Warm-season
- Bunch grass
- May reach 8 feet in height
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Ouachita County

Chasmanthium latifolium

Sea Oats

- Perennial
- Warm-season
- 24 to 36 inches tall
- Perhaps the easiest grass to identify due to the shape of the compressed seed head
- Grows in wooded areas or stream banks
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Vulpia myuros

Rattail Fescue

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 24 inches tall
- Vernation folded
- Ligules membranous, truncated, smooth, entire
- Auricles absent
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Lonoke County

Zizaniopsis miliacea

Giant Cutgrass

- Perennial
- To 10 feet tall
- Leaf blades flat, broad, to 30 inches long, to 1.5 inches wide
- Leaf margins very sharp
- Inflorescence large, to 2 feet long, to several inches wide, many branchlets, widely spreading, spikelets numerous
- Fruit ovoid, grain-yellow
- **Photo Location:** Lake Conway

Polygonaceae

Brunnichia ovata

Redvine

- Perennial
- Leaves egg-shaped or tend to be oblong, up to 4 inches long, sharp, pointed, ending abruptly and heart-shaped at base
- Lower flower stalks solitary in the leaf forks, the several uppermost forming a loose, leafless arrangement
- Fruit brown and corky
- Found in cultivated fields and landscapes
- **Photo Location:** alley in Little Rock

Polygonum aviculare

Prostrate Knotweed

- Warm-season annual
- Prostrate growth habit
- May form patches a foot or more in diameter
- Leaves deep green, smooth, alternate, with a membrane at the base sheathing the stem (inset)
- Found in compacted soils along trails and cart paths
- **Photo Location:** Ouachita Baptist University baseball field, Arkadelphia

Polygonum lapathifolium

Pale Smartweed

- Warm-season annual
- 2 to 6 feet tall
- Stems have swollen nodes
- Papery sheath (ocrea) surrounding stems at nodes, ocrea shatters to form bristles (inset)
- Leaves alternate and linear, with short leaf stalks
- Flowers white, often nodding
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff

Polygonum pensylvanicum

Pennsylvania Smartweed

- Warm-season annual
- Can grow up to 4 feet tall
- Stems smooth and reddish-purple with swollen nodes
- Leaves alternate and lance-shaped with a red watermark
- Papery sheath called an ocrea forms around nodes (inset)
- Flowers small, bright pink and form dense, spike-like clusters on the stems from July through October
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Fisheries Research Farm, Pine Bluff

Polygonum persicaria

Ladysthumb

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves alternate, smooth, lanceolate, pointed at tip
- Ocrea with bristles (inset)
- Flowers pink, rose, purplish-green or white
- **Photo Location:** Crystal Court in Little Rock

Rumex acetosella

Red Sorrel

- Perennial
- With rhizomes
- 8 to 15 inches tall
- Leaves arrow-shaped (inset)
- Flowers reddish-brown
- Found in pastures with poor soil
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Hartman in Johnson County

Rumex crispus

Curly Dock

- Perennial
- Tap rooted
- Leaves lance-shaped
- Leaves have a membranous extension (ocrea) surrounding the stem at the base of each leaf
- Leaf blades about 6 to 8 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide, more or less puckered along the edge
- Flowers greenish and in a large cluster
- Common to pastures, abandoned row crop fields
- **Photo Location:** Remmel Park in Little Rock

Rumex pulcher

Fiddle Leaf Dock

- Perennial
- Occasionally found in pastures
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Pontederiaceae

Eichhornia crassipes

Water Hyacinth

- Warm-season, free-floating perennial
- Can grow to a height of 3 feet
- Leaves circular to elliptical and attached to a spongy, inflated petiole
- Under the water is a thick, heavily branched, dark, fibrous root system
- Flowers light blue to violet located on a terminal spike
- **Photo Location:** Arkansas Post National Memorial near Gillett

Heteranthera limosa

Ducksalad

- Warm-season annual
- Grows in shallow water
- Very common in rice farming
- Leaves oval, narrow and 0.5 to 5 inches long
- Flowers white or blue, borne singly on a stalk
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Research Farm north of Lonoke off Highway 31

Heteranthera reniformis

Roundleaf Mud Plantain

- Warm-season annual
- Grows in shallow water
- Leaves kidney- to heart-shaped, 1 to 3 inches long and about as broad
- Flowers white or pale blue
- Inflorescence has two or more flowers
- Common in rice fields and drainage ditches
- **Photo Location:** UAPB Research Farm north of Lonoke off Highway 31

Pontederia cordata

Pickerelweed

- Perennial
- Occurs throughout Arkansas
- 2 or 3 feet tall
- Leaves large (up to 5 inches wide) and usually twice as long
- Leaf shapes variable, but usually lance-shaped
- Flowers a violet-blue spike
- **Photo Location:** Highway 70 between Little Rock and Lonoke

Portulaceaeae

Claytonia virginica

Spring Beauty

- Perennial
- Produces a bulb-like corm several inches beneath the soil surface (split in photo)
- Leaves opposite, fleshy and lance-shaped
- Flower pinkish or whitish (inset)
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Portulaca oleracea

Common Purslane

- Warm-season annual
- Stems fleshy, prostrate, succulent
- Leaves fleshy, hairless, tongue-shaped
- Flowers small, yellow
- Almost always found in disturbed or cultivated soil
- Most often seen in gardens and landscape beds
- **Photo Location:** Lonoke County Extension office

Potamagetonaceae

Potamogeton diversifolius

Variable Leaf Pondweed

- Perennial
- Leaves usually alternate, but upper ones may be opposite
- Submerged and floating leaves on the same plant frequently very different in appearance from emerged leaves
- Leaf structure varies among species from grass-like to broadleaf with many distinct veins
- Plants have simple or slightly branched stems
- **Photo Location:** Persimmon Ridge Golf Course north of Conway

Ranunculaceae

Clematis terniflora

Sweet Autumn Clematis

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- Native to Japan
- Leaves opposite, compound, with entire margins
- Flowers fragrant, creamy white, with four petals
- **Photo Location:** Ouachita County

Delphinium carolinianum

Carolina Larkspur

- Perennial
- 2 to 4 feet tall
- Flowers deep blue, arranged in a spike (inset)
- **Photo Location:** roadside in Baxter County

Ranunculus abortivus

Small Flower Buttercup

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 15 inches tall
- Most or all basal leaves unlobed and with scalloped margins
- Higher leaves deeply three-lobed or divided
- Flowers tiny with five yellow petals (inset)
- Common to both cultivated and undisturbed areas
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Batesville

Ranunculus hispidus var. *nitidus*

Swamp Buttercup

- Perennial
- Flowers bright yellow
- **Photo Location:** Alpine Street in Little Rock

Ranunculus parviflorus

Short Buttercup

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 15 inches tall
- Flowers yellow
- One of the most common pasture weeds in the state
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas Research Farm, Batesville

Ranunculus sardous

Buttercup

- Cool-season annual
- 6 to 15 inches tall
- Stems hairy
- Leaves lobed
- Flowers with five bright yellow, shiny petals
- One of the most common pasture weeds in the state
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Thalictrum thalictroides

Rue Anemone

- Perennial
- 4 to 8 inches tall
- Leaves with three rounded lobes
- Flowers white to pink
- **Photo Location:** Allsop Park in Little Rock

Rhamnaceae

Berchemia scandens

Rattan Vine

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- Leaves with prominent parallel veins
- Leaves turn orange-yellow in the fall
- Photo taken in mid-October
- Fruit bluish-black when ripe
- **Photo Location:** Murray Park in Little Rock

Rosaceae

Aphanes microcarpa

Parsley Piert

- Cool-season annual
- 1 to 3 inches tall
- Leaves alternate, highly dissected
- **Photo Location:** Hindman Golf Course, Little Rock

Duchesnea indica

Indian Mock Strawberry

- Perennial
- Fruit red, fleshy, strawberry-like (inset)
- Very common in shady areas of lawns
- Often mistaken for wild strawberry
- Sometimes used as a ground cover
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Potentilla recta

Sulphur Cinquefoil

- Perennial
- 1 to 2.5 feet tall
- Stems erect, hairy and rigid
- Leaves alternate on long, hairy stalks, and palmately divided with five coarse-toothed leaflets
- Flowers yellow with five petals (inset)
- Primarily found in grassy waste areas
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way near Batesville

Rosa carolina

Pasture Rose

- Perennial
- Leaves toothed
- Stems thorny (inset)
- Most common wild rose in the state
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way south of Fulton

Rubus spp.

Blackberry

- Perennial with erect or trailing woody stems with prickles
- Leaves rough, small prickles on underside of midvein, green above and silvery green to whitish below
- Flowers white with five petals, showy and usually solitary
- Fruit many-seeded, red to black
- Found on roadsides, ditch banks and in waste areas
- Several species occur in Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Conway

Rubus trivialis

Dewberry

- Perennial
- Leaves rough, small prickles on underside of midvein, green above, silvery green to whitish below
- Flowers white, with five petals, showy and usually solitary
- Fruit many-seeded, red to black
- Found on roadsides and in ditch banks and waste areas
- Several species occur in Arkansas
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Conway

Rubiaceae

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Buttonbush

- Perennial
- Shrub or small tree
- Common shoreline plant
- Common throughout Arkansas
- 10 or 20 feet tall
- Leaves opposite
- Flowers white, ball-like clusters from which the name is derived
- Flowers appear from early spring to late warm season
- **Photo Location:** Murray Park in Little Rock

Diodia teres

Poorjoe

- Warm-season annual
- Reddish, hairy stems
- Flowers small, tubular, pink, four-lobed, borne in the leaf axil
- **Photo Location:** pasture near Marshall

Diodia virginiana

Virginia Buttonweed

- Perennial with a taproot
- Low-growing and mat-forming
- Produces underground flowers
- Flowers white with four lobes
- Upper surface of petals covered with hairs
- Prefers low, moist areas
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Galium aparine

Catchweed Bedstraw

- Cool-season annual
- Stems square with tiny, saw-toothed appendages that cause the plants to stick together and to animal fur or clothing
- Leaves form whorls of six to eight leaflets at distinct intervals along the stems
- Flowers tiny, white, borne on long stems from the leaf clusters (inset)
- **Photo Location:** yard on Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Galium pedemontanum

Piedmont Bedstraw

- Cool-season annual
- Leaves and stems hairy
- Flowers pale yellow, very tiny and found in the leaf axils (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Remmel Park in Little Rock

Hedyotis spp.

Bluets

- Cool-season annual
- 3 to 5 inches tall
- Often in patches in lawns in early spring
- Leaves opposite, few in number
- Flowers purple to violet or white with four spreading lobes
- **Photo Location:** Hindman Golf Course, Little Rock

Richardia scabra

Florida Pusley

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves entire, hairy, with entire margins
- Flowers tubular and white in terminal clusters
- **Photo Location:** fast food parking lot, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Sherardia arvensis

Field Madder

- Cool-season annual
- A low-growing plant that spreads and often covers large areas
- Leaves whorled, sharp-pointed and somewhat hairy on the upper surface (inset)
- Flowers small with four petals, funnel-shaped, pink to light purple and borne in clusters at the ends of the stems (inset)
- Common winter lawn weed
- **Photo Location:** University of Arkansas campus, Fayetteville

Rutaceae

Poncirus trifoliata

Trifoliate Orange

- Perennial
- Tree
- Thorns long and green
- From Asia
- Leaves with three leaflets
- Leaf stems winged
- Flowers white
- Fruit citrus-like, orange when ripe, bitter-tasting (inset)
- Occurs statewide

Sapindaceae

Aesculus pavia

Red Buckeye

- Perennial
- Shrub
- Native
- Leaves opposite, palmately compound with five leaflets
- Flowers red
- Sometimes a weed in pastures
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Cardiospermum halicacabum

Balloon Vine

- Warm-season annual
- Trailing or climbing vine
- Flowers white
- Fruit an inflated capsule
- Distinctive black-and-white seeds (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Murray Park in Little Rock

Saururaceae

Saururus cernuus

Lizard's Tail

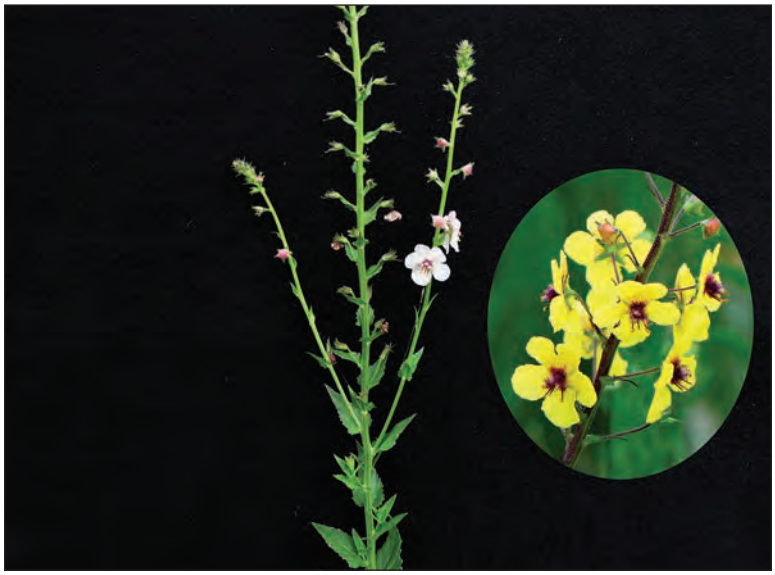
- Perennial
- Erect plant 1 to 2 feet tall
- Grows in shallow water
- Leaves can be arrowhead-shaped or heart-shaped, on stalks and alternate on the stem
- Forms colonies from underground runners
- Flowers white bottlebrush spikes, 6 to 8 inches long, arching above the leaves
- Flowers become a string of nutlets that resemble a lizard's tail
- **Photo Location:** Lake Conway

Scrophulariaceae

Verbascum blattaria

Moth Mullein

- Biennial
- First-year plants form a basal rosette
- Flowers yellow (inset) or white
- 3 to 5 feet tall
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Logan County



Verbascum thapsus

Common Mullein

- Biennial
- Leaves gray-green, large and woolly
- Leaves in a basal rosette
- Flowers yellow, borne on thick stalks (inset)
- **Photo Location:** Lake Ouachita shoreline

Simaroubaceae

Ailanthus altissima

Tree of Heaven

- Perennial
- Tree
- Often found in urban settings
- Leaves large and compound with many leaflets
- There is a small lobe at the base of the leaflet (inset)
- **Photo Location:** yard on Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock

Smilacaceae

Smilax bona-nox

Greenbrier

- Perennial vine
- Young leaves may be bronze to purple
- Leaves with a waxy coating
- Prickles along the stem
- Large underground tuber present
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Smilax rotundifolia

Common Greenbrier

- Perennial vine
- Leaves with a waxy coating
- Prickles along the stem
- Large underground tuber present
- **Photo Location:** yard in Little Rock

Solanaceae

Datura inoxia

Angel's Trumpet

- Perennial
- 2 to 3 feet in height
- Spreads 3 to 6 feet
- Flower colors pink, white, lavender
- Often planted as an ornamental
- **Photo Location:** yard in Cleburne County

Datura stramonium

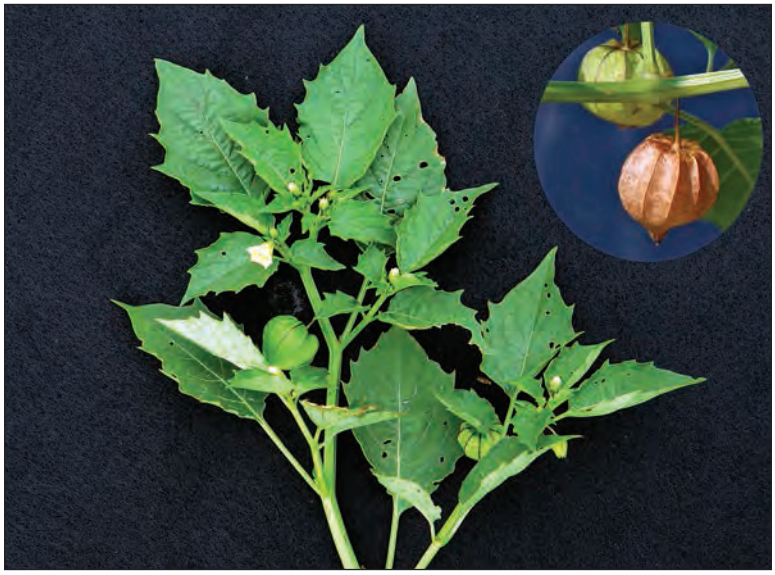
Jimsonweed

- Warm-season annual
- Large showy, tubular flowers
- Flowers white or pale lilac
- Fruit egg-shaped with many spines (inset)
- All plant parts poisonous
- Gives off an unpleasant odor when bruised
- **Photo Location:** Highway 371 right-of-way near Blevins in Hempstead County

Physalis angulata

Cutleaf Groundcherry

- Warm-season annual
- Flowers bell-shaped and yellow to greenish-yellow with brown marking inside
- Fruit smooth berries enclosed in a calyx that resembles a paper lantern (inset)
- Found on rice field levees and turnrows as well as many other locations
- **Photo Location:** rice field on the UAPB research farm north of Lonoke



Solanum carolinense

Horsenettle

- Perennial
- Spreads primarily by rhizomes
- Up to 2 feet tall
- Found on roadsides and in gardens, pastures, cultivated fields and waste areas
- Flowers violet or white, petals five-parted and the yellow stamens protruding in an erect ring in the center
- Stems with prickles
- Leaves alternate, wavy-edged or lobed with prickles along the main veins
- Fruit smooth, large, many-seeded berries

Solanum eleagnifolium

Silverleaf Nightshade

- Perennial
- Stems spiny
- Leaves with soft, whitish hairs
- Flowers blue
- Toxic to livestock
- Primarily in the southwest part of the state
- **Photo Location:** Interstate 30 right-of-way near Fulton, Arkansas

Solanum ptycanthum

Black Nightshade

- Warm-season annual
- Up to 3 feet tall
- Leaves egg-shaped to oval, opaque and dark green
- Flowers violet or purple
- Berries naked and black at maturity
- **Photo Location:** Lancaster Street in Little Rock

Solanum rostratum

Buffalobur

- Warm-season annual
- Leaves crinkled with many rounded lobes
- Leaves and stems spiny
- Flowers yellow
- Fruit spiny burs (inset)
- Weed of pastures in western half of the state
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Johnson County

Sphenocleaceae

Sphenoclea zeylanica

Gooseweed

- Warm-season annual
- 1 to 5 feet tall
- Leaves elliptical to linear, smooth-edged, 1 to 4 inches long and light green – paler beneath than above
- Stems erect, smooth and hollow
- Flowers borne in a continuous, dense spike, white or light green
- **Photo Location:** ditch on Highway 146 near Stuttgart

Typhaceae

Typha latifolia

Cattail

- Perennial
- 4 to 8 feet tall
- Erect with long, narrow leaves
- Usually grows in colonies
- Rhizomes extensive
- Flowers in a long, dense, cylindrical spike terminating the stem
- Seeds may remain viable for five years or more
- **Photo Location:** office complex near Cantrell Road and Rodney Parham in Little Rock

Urticaceae

Boehmeria cylindrica

False Nettle

- Perennial
- Leaves usually opposite and serrate
- Leaf blade has three main palmate veins from the base (inset)
- Does not have stinging hairs
- **Photo Location:** creek in War Memorial Park, Little Rock

Valerianaceae

Valerianella radiata

Cornsalad

- Warm-season annual
- 6 to 15 inches tall
- Stems and branches divide in Ys
- Hairless
- Leaves opposite
- Flowers tiny and white, tightly clustered at the stem tips
- **Photo Location:** lake at Hindman Golf Course, Little Rock

Verbenaceae

Lippia nodiflora

Mat Lippia

- Perennial
- Stems long, wiry, prostrate, rooted at the nodes
- Leaves opposite, wedge-shaped, toothed at the margins and rounded at the tips
- Flower buds dark red to purple, resemble the head of a kitchen match
- **Photo Location:** near the boat ramp at Willow Beach Park in Scott

Verbena brasiliensis

Brazilian Vervain

- Annual or perennial
- Up to 4 to 6 feet tall
- Native of South America
- Introduced to the United States
- Spreading in Arkansas
- Found mainly in southern part of the state
- Cattle will eat the upper stems
- Stems strongly four-angled
- Flowers violet, tiny and star-shaped
- **Photo Location:** pasture in Hot Spring County

Verbena simplex

Narrow-Leaved Vervain

- Perennial
- Up to 2 feet tall
- Flowers pale blue to white
- **Photo Location:** Highway 5 right-of-way north of Calico Rock

Verbena stricta

Hoary Vervain

- Perennial
- Flowers blue to purple
- Tolerates drought and is often found on shallow, rocky soils
- **Photo Location:** along Highway 5 right-of-way north of Calico Rock

Violaceae

Viola spp.

Common Violet

- Perennial
- 2 to 5 inches tall
- Leaves all basal, not lobed but scalloped on the margin, hairless or nearly so
- Flowers blue-violet to lilac or white
- **Photo Location:** War Memorial Golf Course, Little Rock

Viola bicolor

Johnny Jump-Up Violet

- Cool-season annual
- 4 to 8 inches tall
- Leaves borne on the stem, alternate, with prominent dissected (at the base) stipules
- Flowers borne on prominent stalks from the upper nodes, blue-violet to pale purple or whitish
- **Photo Location:** Highway 10 right-of-way west of Little Rock

Vitaceae

Ampelopsis arborea

Peppervine

- Perennial vine
- Leaves usually doubly compound
- Leaflets with coarse teeth
- Fruit shiny and black when ripe (inset)
- Common throughout the state
- Roadsides, fencerows, landscapes
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way south of Fulton

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Virginia Creeper

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- Native to Arkansas
- Occurs statewide
- Leaves compound with five leaflets
- Berries dark blue to black
- **Photo Location:** Highway 67 right-of-way south of Fulton

Vitis labrusca

Fox Grape

- Perennial
- Woody vine
- **Photo Location:** Knoop Park in Little Rock

Zygophyllaceae

Tribulus terrestris

Puncturevine

- Warm-season annual
- Deep taproot
- Stems may be 4 to 6 feet long
- Leaves mostly opposite, bright green and have four to eight pairs of leaflets
- Flowers yellow, five-petaled
- Seeds angled, each with two stout spines that give a goat's head appearance (inset)
- Occurs primarily in areas of thin turf and areas where no other vegetation is present
- **Photo Location:** Murray Park in Little Rock

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