

# COMMON ROADSIDE INVASIVES,

*A roadside field guide to  
showy herbaceous weeds*

*A thing is right when it tends*

*to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty*



*of the biotic community.*

EP-02-003

# Common Roadside Invasives

This guide identifies common and showy roadside invasive grasses and forbs, all of which are on various State noxious weed lists. Several of the plants shown are native to the US, but are not native to the specific geographic areas in which they are known to be invasive. These plants can invade and degrade both agricultural land and natural areas. Invasive plant species are common to many regions of the United States and continue to adapt and move to new habitats, particularly disturbed roadside areas. We provide this guide with the expectation that it will help roadside vegetation managers and maintenance personnel to identify and control invasive plants in their jurisdictions.

## BLUE AND ORANGE FORBS

### Chicory

*Cichorium intybus*



### Periwinkle

*Vinca minor*



### Orange hawkweed

*Hieracium aurantiacum*



# YELLOW FORBS



**Yellow starthistle**  
*Centaurea solstitialis*



**Perennial sowthistle**  
*Sonchus arvensis*



**Lantana**  
*Lantana spp.*



**Tansy ragwort**  
*Senecio jacobaea*



**Common tansy**  
*Tanacetum vulgare*

# YELLOW FORBS



**Wild, charlock, or  
kaber mustard**

*Brassica kaber*

**Brassica nigra**

*Black mustard*



**Dyer's woad**

*Isatis tinctoria*



**Dalmatian toadflax**

*Linaria genistifolia*

**Yellow toadflax**

*Linaria vulgaris*



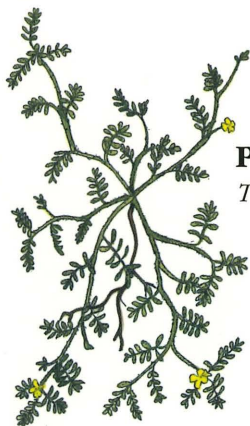
**Common mullein**

*Verbascum thapsus*





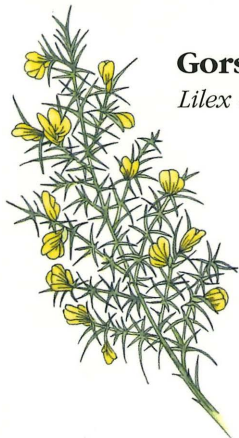
# YELLOW FORBS



**Puncturevine**  
*Tribulus terrestris*



**Scotch broom**  
*Cytisus scoparius*



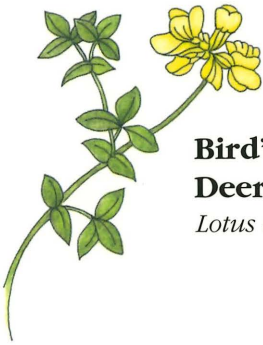
**Gorse**  
*Lillex europaeus*

**Highway iceplant**  
*Carpobrotus edulis*



**Yellow nutsedge**  
*Cyperus esculentus*

# YELLOW FORBS



**Bird'sfoot trefoil,  
Deer vetch**  
*Lotus corniculatus*



**Buffalobur**  
*Solanum rostratum*



**Klamathweed,  
St. John's wort**  
*Hypericum perforatum*



**Dandelion**  
*Taraxacum officinale*

# PINK FORBS



**Camelthorn**

*Alhagi pseudalhagi*



**Musk thistle**

*Carduus nutans*



**Diffuse  
knapweed**

*Centaurea  
diffusa*



**Meadow knapweed**

*Centaurea pratensis*



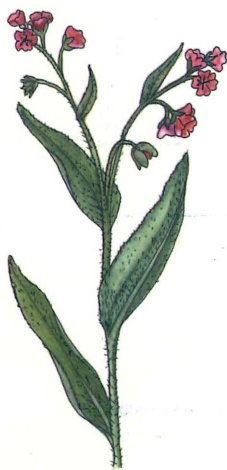
**Redstem filaree**

*Erodium cicutarium*

## PINK FORBS



**Dame's rocket**  
*Hesperis matronalis*



**Hound's tongue**  
*Cynoglossum officinale*



**Sericea  
lespedeza**  
*Lespedeza  
cuneata*



**Foxglove**  
*Digitalis purpurea*



# GREEN GRASSES

**Reed canary grass**

*Phalaris arundinacea*



**Smooth brome**

*Bromis inermis*



**Johnsongrass**

*Sorghum halepense*



**Tall fescue**

*Festuca arundinacea*



**Cheat grass**

*Bromus tectorum*



# GREEN GRASSES



**Bermuda grass**

*Cynodon dactylon*



**Giant reed**

*Arundo donax*



**Chinese silver grass**

*Miscanthus sinensis*



**Pampas grass**

*Cortaderia jubata, selloana*

# GREEN GRASSES



**Cogongrass**

*Imperata cylindrica*



**Buffelgrass**

*Pennisetum ciliare*



**Fountain grass**

*Pennisetum setaceum*



**African feather grass**

*Pennisetum macrurum*

# GREEN GRASSES



**Kikuyu grass**

*Pennisetum clandestinum*



**Medusahead**

*Taeniatherum caput-medua*



**Jointed goatgrass**

*Aegilops cylindrica*



**Wild proso millet**

*Panicum milaceum*



# GREEN GRASSES

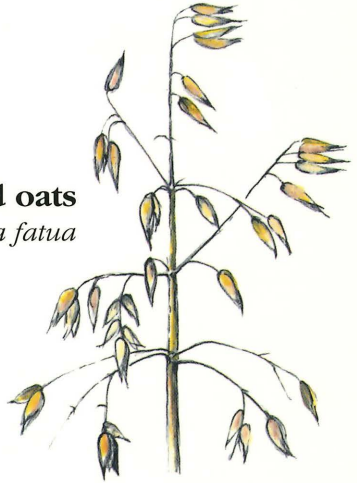
## Milium

*Milium vernale*



## Wild oats

*Avena fatua*



## Foxtail barley

*Hordeum jubatum*



## Matgrass

*Nardus stricta*



# GREEN GRASSES



**Serrated tussock**

*Nasella trichotoma*



**Japanese silt grass**

*Microstegium vimineum*



**Wild red rice**

*Oryza rufipogon*



**Giant phragmites**

*Phragmites australis*

# GREEN GRASSES

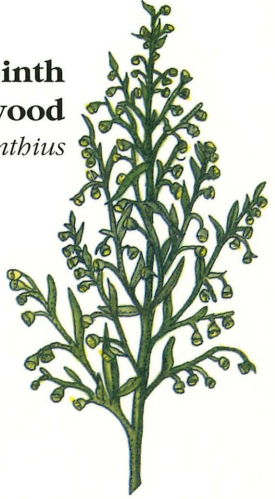
## Russian thistle

*Salsola iberica* or *tragus*



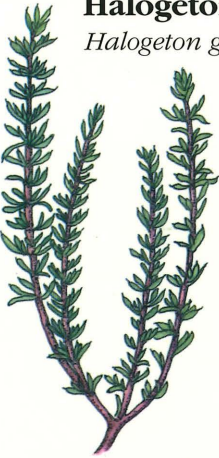
## Absinth wormwood

*Artemesia absinthius*



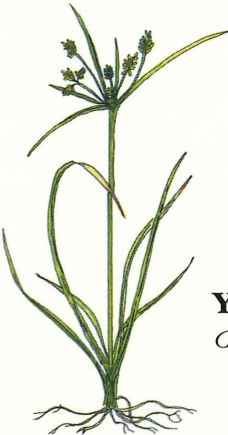
## Halogeton

*Halogeton glomeratus*



## Kochia

*Kochia scoparia*



## Yellow nutsedge

*Cyperus esculentus*

# GREEN GRASSES

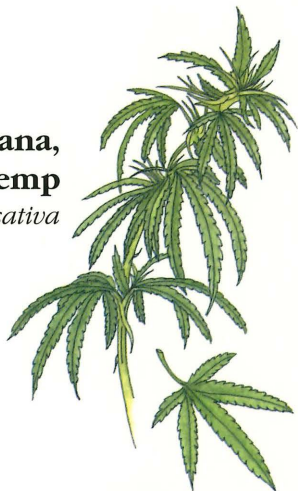


**Leafy spurge**

*Euphorbia esula*

**Marajuana,  
hemp**

*Cannabis sativa*



**Syrian  
beancaper**

*Zygophyllum  
fabago*



**Myrtle  
spurge**

*E. myrsinites*



**Cypress spurge**

*Euphorbia cyparissias*



# WHITE FORBS



**Oxeye daisy**

*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*



**Babysbreath**

*Gypsophila paniculata*



**Water hemlock**

*Cicuta maculata*

**Queen Anne's lace  
or Wild carrot**

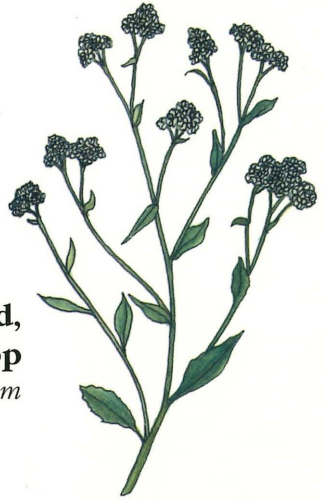
*Daucus carota*



# WHITE FORBS



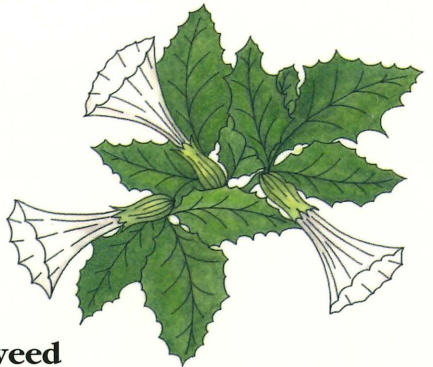
**Poison hemlock**  
*Conium maculatum*



**Perennial Pepperweed,  
Peppergrass, Whitetop**  
*Lipidium latifolium*

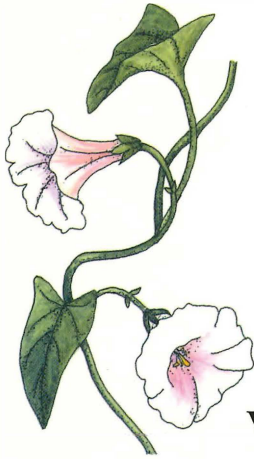


**Hoary cress**  
*Cardaria draba*



**Jimsonweed**  
*Datura stramonium*

# WHITE FORBS



**Field bindweed**

*Convolvulus  
arvensis*



**White or Yellow  
sweetclover**

*Melilotus officinalis*



**Horsenettle**

*Solanum carolense*



**Garlic mustard**

*Alliaria petiolata*



**Scentless  
chamomile**

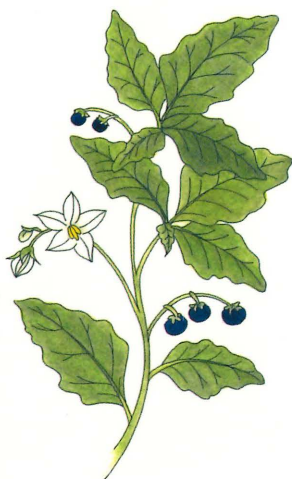
*Anthemis arvensis*

# WHITE FORBS

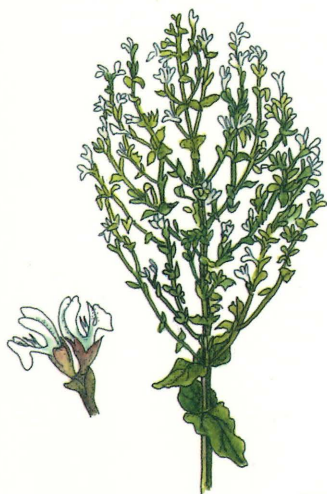
**African rue**  
*Peganum harmala*



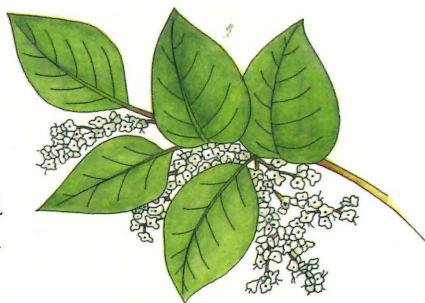
**Black nightsage**  
*Solanum nigrum*



**Mediterranean sage**  
*Salvia aethiopsis*



**Japanese knotweed**  
*Polygonum cuspidatum*





# LAVENDER FORBS

## Canada thistle

*Cirsium arvense*



## Bull thistle

*Cirsium vulgare*



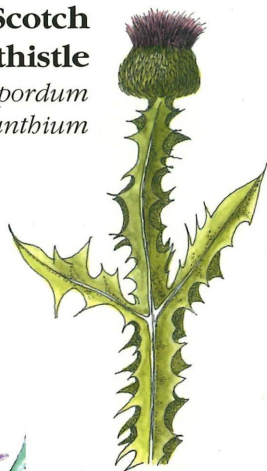
## Plumeless thistle

*Carduus acanthoides*



## Scotch thistle

*Onopordum acanthium*



## Cardoon

*Cynara cardunculus*

# LAVENDER FORBS



**Cornflower,  
Bachelor's button**

*Centaurea cyanus*

**Spotted  
knapweed**

*Centaurea  
maculosa*



**Russian knapweed**

*Centaurea repens*



**Squarrose  
knapweed**

*Centaurea virgata*



**Creeping bellflower**

*Campanula rapunculoides*

# LAVENDER FORBS

## Purple loosestrife

*Lythrum salicaria*



## Rush skeletonweed

*Lygodesmia juncea*



## Common teasel

*Dipsacus fullonum*



## Crownvetch

*Coronilla varia*



## Silverleaf nightshade

*Solanum elaeagnifolium*



## LAVENDER FORBS



**Common crupina**

*Crupina vulgaris*

**Giant hogweed**

*Heracleum  
mantegazzianum*



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Office of Natural Environment  
400 Seventh Street SW, Rm. 3240  
Washington D.C. 20590  
Bonnie Harper-Lore, (651) 291-6104



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