WEEDS

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Annual bluegrass

Latin name: *Poa annua*

Flowering bluegrass plant

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from September through March. For best management in wheat, scout for annual bluegrass from September through February. Annual bluegrass can be controlled with herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for annual bluegrass control in wheat is in the fall and/or early spring.

Identifying characteristics: Fibrous root system; erect or bending stems often rooting at lower nodes. Leaves are 0.5-5 inches long, no pubescence and bright green, with white panicle inflorescences.

Bluegrass seedling

Burclover

Latin name: *Medicago polymorpha*

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from October through March. For best management in wheat, scout for burclover from September through January. Burclover can be controlled with certain herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for burclover control in wheat is in fall and early spring.

Identifying characteristics: Fibrous roots from taproot; erect stems; leaves alternate and palmately trifoliate with three or less leaflets. Flowers are yellow.

Mature burclover plant

Burclover flower

Purple spot on burclover leaflets

Carolina geranium

Latin name: *Geranium carolinianum*

General information: Typical emergence from October through March. For best management in wheat, scout for Carolina geranium from September through January. Carolina geranium can be controlled with certain herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for Carolina geranium control in wheat is in fall and early spring.

Mature leaf Carolina geranium

Identifying characteristics: Fibrous root system from shallow taproot; stems are erect, freely branching near base and densely pubescent; leaves are deeply cut into five to nine finger-like lobed segments, pubescent on both sides of the leaf. Flowers are whitish-pink to pale purple.

Carolina geranium Mature plant

Cheat

Latin name: *Bromus secalinus*

General information: Typical emergence from October through March. For best management in wheat, scout for cheat from October through March. Cheat can be controlled with certain herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for cheat control in wheat is in fall and early spring

Identifying characteristics: Fibrous root system; stems erect but often bend and root at lower nodes; leaves up to 12 inches long and pubescent on both surfaces. Sheaths are pubescent. Inflorescence is an open panicle with thin branches. Green at maturity.

Cheat seedhead

Curly dock

Latin name: *Rumex crispus*

General information: Typical emergence from September through May. For best management in wheat, scout for curly dock from October through March. Curly dock can be controlled with certain herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for curly dock control in wheat is in fall and spring.

Rosette growth stage of Curly dock

Identifying characteristics: Roots are fibrous with fleshy taproot; stems are erect, 1.5 to 5 feet long, coarse, thick and not branched; leaves are alternate with no pubescence and leaf margins are crimped and dark green. Inflorescence is a terminal panicle, 6-24 inches long with no petals.

Seedling curly dock

Cutleaf evening-promise

Latin name: *Oenothera laciniata*

Cutleaf evening-promise plant in rosette growth stage

General information: Typical emergence from October through March. For best management in wheat, scout for cutleaf evening-primrose from October through February. Cutleaf evening-primrose can be controlled with certain herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for cutleaf evening-primrose control in wheat is in late-fall and very early spring.

Identifying characteristics: Erect, prostrate or ascending growth; cotyledons are kidney-shaped with petioles flat on upper surface and are not seen after second leaf develops; stems are simple or many-branched from base, pubescent; leaves are alternate, leaf margins coarsely toothed to lobed, dull green in color, smooth or pubescent. Inflorescence is single flower in leaf axis, yellow to reddish in color. Fruits are capsules and shaped like a cigar.

Close up of apical bud

Fruiting structure

Hairy buttercup

Latin name: *Ranunculus sardous*

General information: Typical emergence from September through May. For best management in wheat, scout for hairy buttercup from October through January. Hairy buttercup can be controlled with herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for hairy buttercup control in wheat is in fall or spring.

Hairy buttercup flower

Identifying characteristics: Cotyledons are oblong with rounded tips; stems are erect, single or branching from base, green and very pubescent; leaves in a basal rosette pattern, alternating upward, palmately three-lobed, pubescent; inflorescense is single flower, pale to bright yellow and showy.

Seedling plant of hairy buttercup

Henbit

Latin name:
Lamium amplexicaule

Henbit seedling

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from September through May. For best management in wheat, scout for henbit from September through January. Henbit can be controlled with certain herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for henbit control in wheat is in the fall.

Close-up of henbit flower

Identifying characteristics: Fibrous root system from taproot; stems are square, green to purple-tinged, with numerous branches, pubescent; leaves are opposite, triangular or circular, leaf margins with rounded teeth, dark green to light green. Flowers are reddish purple.

Field covered with henbit in winter

Horseweed

Latin name: *Conyza canadensis*

General information: Typical emergence from October through May. For best management in wheat, scout for horseweed from October through April. Horseweed can be controlled with certain herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for horseweed control in wheat is in late fall and very early spring.

Horseweed at rosette growth stage

Identifying characteristics: Cotyledons are green, without evident veins, smooth; stems are erect, 3-7 feet tall, rough to touch; leaves begin as basal rosette and alternate after, simple with entire or toothed margins, pubescent; inflorescences are numerous small heads arranged on elongated panicles, small white to lavender flowers. Taxonomy can be highly variable.

Bolting plant in soybean field

Italian ryegrass

Latin name:
Lolium perenne spp. *multiflorum*

Italian ryegrass seedling

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from October through May. For best management in wheat, scout for Italian ryegrass from September through April. Italian ryegrass can be controlled with herbicides in wheat; however, resistance to many herbicides has been documented in Italian ryegrass. Optimum timing of herbicide application for Italian ryegrass control in wheat is in the fall and spring.

Identifying characteristics: Fibrous root system; erect stems that branch at base; leaves are 2-14 inches long; inflorescences are slender spikes. Leaves typically have a shiny to waxy green color.

Inflorescence of ryegrass

Ryegrass before seedhead emergence

Lesser swinecress

Latin name: *Coronopus didymus*

Lesser swinecress leaves

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from November through April. For best management in wheat, scout for lesser swinecress from November through February. Lesser swinecress can be controlled with herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for lesser swinecress control in wheat is in the fall or spring.

Identifying characteristics: Cotyledons are smooth and club-shaped; stems are prostrate, spreading or ascending, multibranched, smooth or pubescent, with pungent odor; leaves begin in a basal rosette then alternate upward with margins smooth or toothed; fruit is clublike, with seeds in two rows.

Mature plant with fruiting structures

Little barley

Latin name: *Hordeum pusillum*

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from October through April. For best management in wheat, scout for little barley from October through March. Little barley can be controlled or suppressed with some herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for little barley control in wheat is in the fall.

Identifying characteristics: Thin, erect stem with smooth or pubescent leaf sheaths and blades; narrow, dense inflorescence densely covered with awns.

Seedhead and flag leaf

Seedhead with awns

Shepherd's-purse

Latin name: *Capsella bursa-pastoris*

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from October through April. For best management in wheat, scout for shepherd's-purse from November through April. Shepherd's-purse can be controlled with herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for shepherd's-purse control in wheat is in the fall and spring.

Fruiting structures and flowers of Shepherd's-purse

Identifying characteristics: Erect, unbranched or branched and covered with grayish pubescence; leaves in basal rosette, alternate and smaller leaves; fruits are triangular or heart-shaped.

Mature Shepherd's-purse plant

Smallflowered bittercress

Latin name: *Cardamine parviflora*

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from November through April. For best management in wheat, scout for smallflowered bittercress from November through April. Smallflowered bittercress can be controlled with herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for smallflowered bittercress control in wheat is in the fall or spring.

Identifying characteristics: Erect stem, with basal leaves in rosette; leaves alternate and pinnately dissected; smooth petioles; flowers with four small white petals.

Mature plant Smallflowered bittercress

Sowthistle

Latin name: *Sonchus* spp.

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from September through May. For best management in wheat, scout for sowthistle from November through May. Sowthistle can be controlled with herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for sowthistle control in wheat is in the fall and spring.

Sowthistle flower

Identifying characteristics: Erect plant; stems hollow, with milky sap; leaves alternate, deeply lobed, with prickly spines along leaf margins; flowers bright yellow; fruits have tufts of long trichomes.

Seedling sowthistle plant

Prickly spines on leaves

White clover

Latin name: *Trifolium repens*

Mature clover plant with flower

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from September through May. For best management in wheat, scout for white clover from October through April. White clover can be controlled with herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for white clover control in wheat is in the fall and/or spring.

Identifying characteristics: Erect or ascending perennial that can propagate via stolons; leaves and flowering stems arise from stolons; leaves are palmately compound, with small-toothed leaflets that can have white color mixed with green in upside-down V shape; flower round and white.

Mature white clover plant with white upside-down V shape

Wild garlic

Latin name: *Allium vineale*

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from November through April. For best management in wheat, scout for wild garlic from November through April. Wild garlic can be controlled with herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for wild garlic control in wheat is in the fall and spring.

Single wild garlic plant

Identifying characteristics:
Erect plant; aerial and underground bublets; leaves round, hollow, with distinctive odor; and inflorescence is greenish-white and small on short stems above aerial bublets.

Mature wild garlic plant

Wild onion

Latin name: *Allium canadense*

General information: Prolific weed with typical emergence from November through April. For best management in wheat, scout for wild onion from November through April. Wild onion can be controlled with some herbicides in wheat. Optimum timing of herbicide application for wild onion control or suppression in wheat is in the fall and spring.

Juvenile wild onion plant

Identifying characteristics: Erect plant; underground bulb with a veined outer coat; leaves are flat with slight keel and not hollow, with distinctive onion odor.

Underground bulbs from wild onion