



Alligatorweed:
Alternanthera philoxeroides



Photograph by: Kerry Dressler.

Description:

Alligatorweed is a perennial member of the pigweed family (Amaranthaceae). Reproduction occurs through seed and movement of stem fragments that readily root at the nodes. Alligatorweed is commonly found in wet or submersed habitats where the hollow stems allow floating mats to occur. However, alligatorweed commonly extends to dry ground, particularly when near irrigation ditches or seasonally wet areas. Leaves are oppositely arranged, have entire margins and possess a prominent midrib. Flowers are compact, white and solitary.

Key Feature:

Hollow stems and solitary white flowers.

Description:

Palmer amaranth is an erect summer annual that can reach 6 feet in height. Leaves are deeply veined, alternately arranged and possess petioles that are often longer than the leaf. Stems are hairless and often highly branched. Seedheads, like other *Amaranthus* species, are compact and originate from the terminals. However, Palmer amaranth seed heads commonly grow between 12 to 18 inches in length.

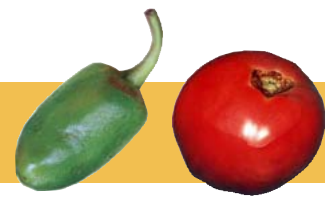
Key Feature:

Seedheads, panicles, that often grow to greater than 12 inches in length and petioles that are longer than the leaf.

Palmer Amaranth:
Amaranthus palmer



Photograph by: Jason Ferrell.



Spiny Amaranth:
Amaranthus spinosus



Photograph by: Jason Ferrell.

Description:

Spiny amaranth is an annual species most commonly found in highly, or repeatedly disturbed areas. Seedheads are compact and originate from the terminals. Leaves are deeply veined and alternately arranged. Stems are often red in color, hairless and possess hard, sharp spines. Spiny amaranth can grow to a height of 5 feet, but commonly grows to a height of 2 feet or less. Other common names include spiny pigweed or carelessweed.

Key Feature:

Deeply veined leaves and spined stem.

Description:

Common bermudagrass is a low-growing perennial that reproduces from rhizomes, stolons (which root at the nodes) and seed. If left uncontrolled, the grass will form a thick turf with fine leaves. Leaf sheaths are sparsely hairy and do not contain auricles. Common bermudagrass is highly troublesome in managed crop fields since it responds vigorously to fertilize and irrigation. This species has poor tolerance to shading.

Key Feature:

This grass has scaly rhizomes and stolons that root at the nodes.

Bermudagrass:
Cynodon dactylon



Photograph by: Jason Ferrell.



Smooth Crabgrass:
Digitaria ischaemum



Photograph from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses.

Description:

Crabgrass is a tufted or prostrate spreading summer annual. The leaves are smooth on both surfaces. The leaf sheath is smooth with a few long hairs at the collar. There are visible membranous ligules at base of the leaf blade. Crabgrass reproduces by seed and the seedhead has two to six "finger-like" branches. Smooth crabgrass is found throughout the United States.

Key Feature:

Smooth leaf with a few hairs at the collar.

Description:

Large crabgrass is a tufted, or prostrate to spreading summer annual with branched stems that root at the nodes. The leaf blade is longer than 2 inches (5 cm) and is usually hairy on both surfaces. There are visible toothed membranous ligules at the base of the leaf. The leaf sheath has dense hairs. There are spikelets in two to nine finger-like branches.

Key Feature:

Hairy leaf with blades longer than 2 inches.

Large Crabgrass:
Digitaria sanguinalis



Photograph by: Jason Ferrell.

WEED MANAGEMENT: Identification



Dodder:

Cuscuta spp.



Photograph by: Bill Stall.

Description:

Dodder is a parasitic annual with leafless, twining thread-like stems that tend to be orange in color. Dodder is parasitic and chiefly attaches to leguminous species, but will attach to most any actively growing plant. No, or very little, chlorophyll is produced by the plant and roots are only visible soon after seed germination. Dodder flowers in the fall and produces fruit, each containing four seeds.

Key Feature:

Leafless orange stems.

Prepared by: Dr. Jason Ferrell

Description:

Eclipta is an annual with prostrate to erect stems and rooting at the nodes. The rough and hairy leaves are opposite and narrow and have either smooth or toothed margins. Flowers are white and are arranged in long-stalked heads. Eclipta reproduces by seed and is found in moist disturbed areas. Eclipta occurs in Massachusetts, New York, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska, south to Florida and west to Texas, Arizona, California and Hawaii.

Key Feature:

Rough hairy leaves with white flowers,

Eclipta:

Eclipta prostrata



Photograph from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses.

Excerpt from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses



Florida Pusley:
Richardia scabra



Photograph from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses.

Description:

Florida pusley is a prostrate and spreading summer annual with branched hairy stems. Leaves are opposite, oval-shaped and somewhat thickened. The flowers are white and tubular, and are clustered at the ends of branches. Florida pusley is distinguished from Brazil pusley by presence of fruit with small bump-like projections and lack of thickened rootstock. This plant reproduces by seed. It is found in the southeast, northeast and midwestern United States.

Key Feature:

Hairy stems with broad, thick leaves.

Description:

Goosegrass is a tough, clumped summer annual, generally with a "whitish to silverish" coloration at the center of the plant. The leaf blade is smooth on both surfaces and occasionally has a few hairs near the base. There is a visible, short-toothed, membranous ligule at base of the leaf blade. Spikelets occur in two rows on two to thirteen fingers. Frequently there is a single finger below the terminal cluster of fingers. Goosegrass reproduces by seed. It is found throughout the temperate and warm parts of the United States.

Key Feature:

Clumped grass that is white or silver in the center.

Goosegrass:
Eleusine indica



Photograph from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses.

WEED MANAGEMENT: Identification



American Black Nightshade: *Solanum americanum*



Photograph by: Jason Ferrell.

Description:

American black nightshade is an annual, but often survives as a perennial in warm climates. It possesses a shallow taproot and a single stem that may become woody with age. Leaves are alternately arranged and may possess hairs, but frequently do not. Fruit are small round berries that are green when immature and black when ripe.

Key Feature:

Young leaves will not be purple on the underside as is common with eastern black nightshade.

Prepared by: Dr. Jason Ferrell

Description:

Purple nutsedge is a rapidly-spreading perennial with three-ranked basal leaves. Leaves are flat or slightly corrugated and are usually shorter than the flowering stem which abruptly tapers at the tip. The seedhead is purple to reddish brown, and is formed at end of a triangular stem. Tubers are oblong and are covered with hairs. They are found in chains connected by brown, wiry rhizomes. Tubers are bitter to taste. Purple nutsedge reproduces primarily by tubers.

Key Feature:

The seedhead is purple to reddish brown and is on the end of a triangular stem.

Purple Nutsedge: *Cyperus rotundus*



Photograph from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses

Excerpt from: *Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses*



Yellow Nutsedge:
Cyperus esculentus



Photograph from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses.

Description:

Yellow nutsedge is a rapidly spreading perennial with three-ranked basal leaves. The leaves are flat or slightly corrugated and are usually as long as or longer than the flowering stem which has a long attenuated tip. The seedhead is yellowish-brown or straw colored and is formed at end of triangular stem. The tubers are round and are lacking hairs. They are formed at ends of whitish rhizomes which do not form chains of tubers. The tubers are slightly sweet to taste. Yellow nutsedge reproduces primarily by tubers. It is found throughout the United States.

Key Feature:

Yellow seedhead.

Description:

Annual with prostrate, ascending or erect, smooth stems. Leaves with long petioles. Leaf blades usually oval, sometimes slightly broader above the middle. Leaf tips, at least some, with a notch. Flowers green, in dense clusters in leaf axils or at tips of stems. Male and female flowers separate but mixed in the clusters. Reproduces by seed. Found in lawns, pastures, gardens and row crops.

Key Feature:

Green flowers in tight clusters at end of branch.

Livid Amaranth:
Amaranthus lividus



Photograph by: Bill Stall.

WEED MANAGEMENT: Identification



Common Purslane: *Portulaca oleracea*



Photograph by: Bill Stall.

Description:

Purslane is a prostrate, succulent summer annual. Leaves alternate or are nearly opposite. They are fleshy, somewhat spoon-shaped. Stems are smooth and are usually purplish-red. Flowers are yellow, solitary in leaf axils or clustered on ends of stems. The fruit is a round capsule that splits open around the middle. This plant reproduces by seed and is found throughout the United States.

Key Feature:

Leaves spoon-shaped and stem is purplish-red.

Description:

Ragweed is a taprooted summer annual with branched stems. Leaves are hairy and are deeply twice dissected. Male and female flowers are green and separate. Ragweed reproduces by seed and is common in fields and pastures, on roadsides and in waste places. Ragweed is native to the US and occurs in the Northwest and Southeastern United States.

Key Feature:

Leaves are hairy and twice dissected.

Common Ragweed: *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*



Photograph from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses.

Excerpt from: *Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses*



**Spreading Dayflower:
*Commelina diffusa***



Photograph from: Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses.

Description:

Dayflower is a freely-branched reclining annual with smooth stems. Leaves are broadly lance-shaped with closed sheaths. Sheaths are short with a few soft hairs on the upper margin. Flowers have three blue petals in a leaf-like structure which is open on the margins. Flowers are usually solitary. Spreading dayflower reproduces by seed and stem fragments and is found in most moist habitats. Occurs from Massachusetts, Missouri, Indiana, south into Florida and west to Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Key Feature:

Solitary flowers with three blue petals.

Description:

Tall annual with erect, smooth to hairy stems. Petioles long. Leaf blades oval with a sharp tip. Male and female flowers mixed in clusters in leaf axils and in large terminal panicles. Reproduces by seed. Found in fields, moist areas, roadsides and disturbed areas.

Key Feature:

Small, green flowers enclosed by coarse, bristly spikes.

**Smooth Pigweed:
*Amaranthus hybridus***



Photograph by: Bill Stall.