

Visual Guide to Pennsylvania's Noxious Weeds



Please note that other control methods may exist. For more information regarding control of the noxious weeds listed in this document contact your local NRCS Field Office or local Penn State Extension Office.

Pennsylvania's Noxious Weed Control Law (selected sections)

Section 4. Sale or Propagation.

When a weed is declared noxious it shall be a violation of this act to sell, transport, plant, or otherwise propagate that weed within the Commonwealth, except that the secretary may permit exceptions for specific horticultural or experimental use.

Section 5. Weed Control Areas.

The secretary on his own motion or upon the request of any interested person, may hold public hearings to consider the designation of a weed control area.

When a weed control area has been designated by the secretary, the secretary shall issue an order describing the weed control area and shall require the affected landowners to comply with this act within 30 days from the publication of this order. Such order may require control measures for the noxious weed to be implemented by landowners: Provided, however, that such order shall not impose an unreasonable deadline for compliance or an unreasonable financial burden on and landowner.

Section 6.1. Control Order Issued Against an Individual Landowner.

The secretary may issue an order requiring an individual landowner to implement control measures for noxious weeds if he finds that noxious weeds are growing on that landowner's property.

An order issued under this section shall be in writing and shall be served on the landowner by handing a copy of the order to him or by sending a copy of the order to the landowner by certified mail, return receipt requested.

An order may be issued under this section without a public hearing, provided that the landowner may within seven days of receipt notify the secretary in writing that he intends to contest the order. If the landowner fails to contest the order within that seven-day period, it shall become final.

Whenever a landowner notifies the secretary that he intends to contest an order issued under this section pursuant to subsection (c), the secretary shall provide the landowner with a hearing within ten days after receipt of notification that the order is being contested. After reviewing the testimony or other evidence presented at the hearing, the secretary may affirm, modify or vacate the order. If the order is affirmed or modified, it shall become a final order under this act.

(6.1 added July 7, 1994, P.L. 439, No. 72)

Section 7. Compliance with Orders.

An affected landowner shall comply with an order issued under section 5 within 30 days after publication. An affected landowner shall comply with an order issued under section 6.1 within 30 days after the order becomes final.

When an affected landowner fails to comply with an order, the secretary shall notify the landowner and the municipality within which the landowner's property is located by certified mail. Thereafter, the appropriate officials of the municipality shall take the necessary steps to carry out the order within 30 days after receipt of such notification by the secretary.

A municipality which acts to control or destroy a noxious weed on a noncomplying landowner's property shall have power to recover all expenses and costs incurred in complying with the order from the noncomplying landowner.

(7 amended July 7, 1994, P.L. 439, No. 72)

Section 8. Noxious Weed Control List. (Amended November 18, 2000)

The noxious weed control list shall include the following weeds:

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| Cannabis sativa, commonly known as Marijuana | Carduus nutans, commonly known as Musk or Nodding Thistle |
| Cirsium arvense, commonly known as Canadian thistle | Sorghum bicolor, commonly known as Shattercane |
| Rosa multiflora, commonly known as Multiflora rose | Datura stramonium, commonly known as Jimsonweed |
| Sorghum halepense, commonly known as Johnson grass | Lythrum salicaria, commonly known as Purple Loosestrife, including all cultivars |
| Polygonum perfoliatum, commonly known as Mile-a-minute | Heracleum mantegazzianum, commonly known as Giant Hogweed |
| Pueraria lobata, commonly known as Kudzu-vine | Galega officinalis, commonly known as Goatsrue |
| Cirsium vulgare, commonly known as Bull or Spear Thistle | |

Section 10. Penalties.

Any landowner who fails to comply with an order of the secretary shall be guilty of a summary offense.

Any landowner who interferes with the agents of the secretary, or with a municipality and the discharge of its duties hereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(10 amended July 7, 1994, P.L. 439, No. 72)

Marijuana

Cannabis sativa

Control:

Hand pull young plants and destroy. Targeted applications of systemic herbicides such as glyphosate may also be effective.



Canadian thistle

Cirsium arvense



Control:

Cut before seed sets. Repeated cutting will eventually weaken and kill the root system. Targeted applications of systemic herbicides such as glyphosate may be effective. Herbicide applications are most effective when applied before flowering.

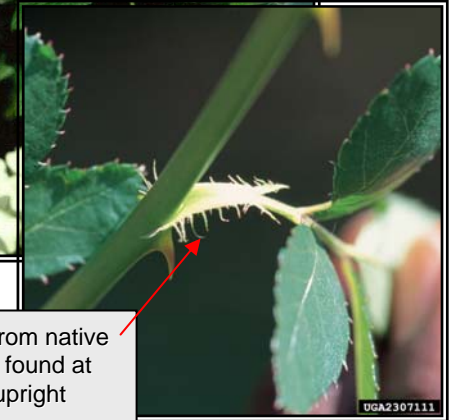


Multiflora Rose

Rosa multiflora

Control:

Hand pull young plants. Mow or cut larger plants repeatedly (3-6 times during growing season) to weaken and kill. Cut stumps or resprouted stumps may be treated with systemic herbicides such as glyphosate to kill roots. Herbicide is most effective late in growing season.

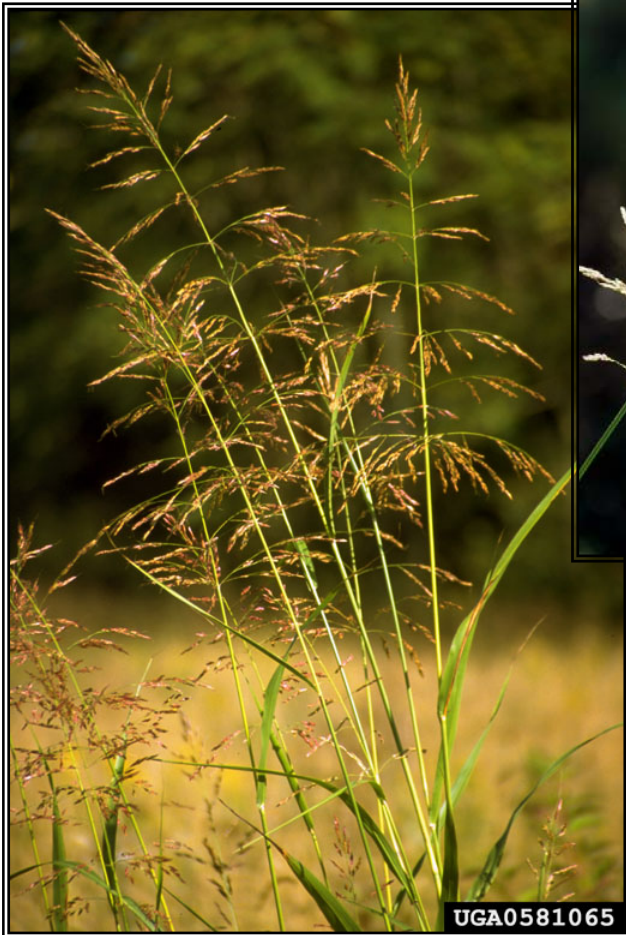


Multiflora can be distinguished from native look-alikes by the fringed bracts found at the base of each leaf stalk and upright stem.



Johnsongrass

Sorghum halepense



Control:

Hand pull or mow young plants. Plow or disk larger areas of infestation and follow with a targeted application of systemic herbicides such as glyphosate to kill rhizomes. Foliar herbicide treatments work best when plants are 12 to 18 inches tall and actively growing. Possible use of other herbicides will depend on the presence of other vegetation/crops.

Mile-a-Minute

Polygonum perfoliatum



Control:

Remove by hand wearing protective clothing to avoid barbs. Repeated removal of new growth throughout the summer is necessary. Mowing throughout growing season will also restrict flowering. Herbicidal soaps can be used throughout the summer. Repeated applications are required.

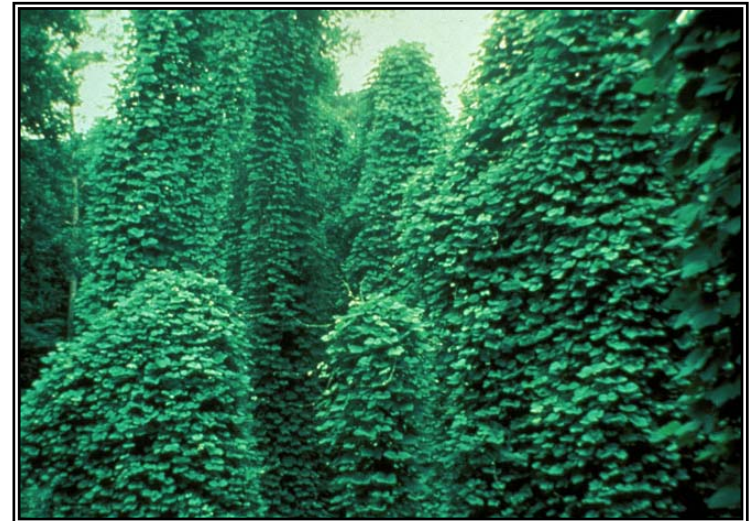


Kudzu-vine

Pueraria lobata

Control:

Complete control requires 4 to 10 years of repeated herbicide treatments (both broadcast and targeted) of herbicides such as Tordon K or 101, Veteran 720 or glyphosate. Herbicide applications on a broad scale will affect other vegetation. Total eradication is needed for successful control.



Bull or Spear Thistle

Cirsium vulgare



Control:

Cut before seed sets. Repeated cutting will eventually weaken and kill the root system. Targeted applications of systemic herbicides such as glyphosate may be effective. Herbicide applications are most effective when applied before flowering.



Musk or Nodding Thistle

Carduus nutans



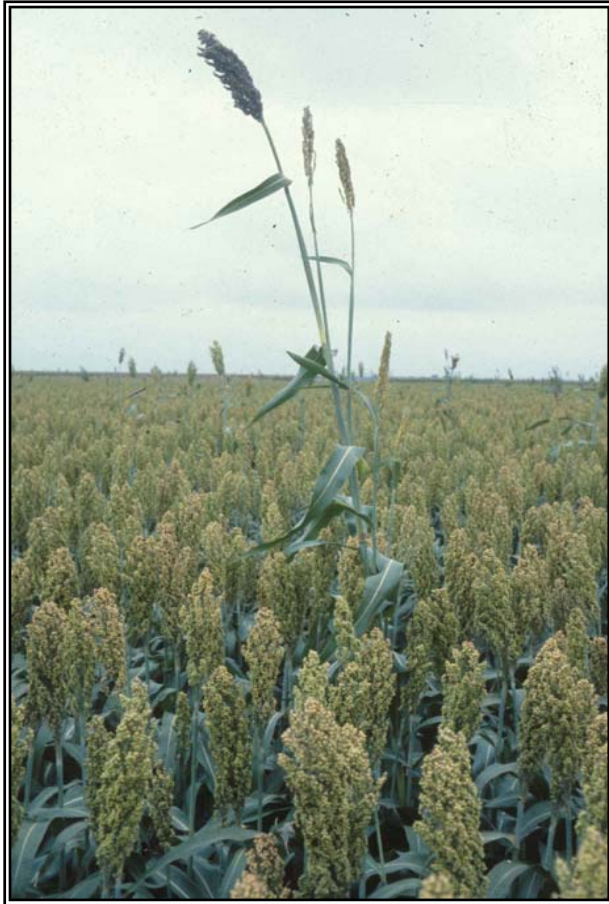
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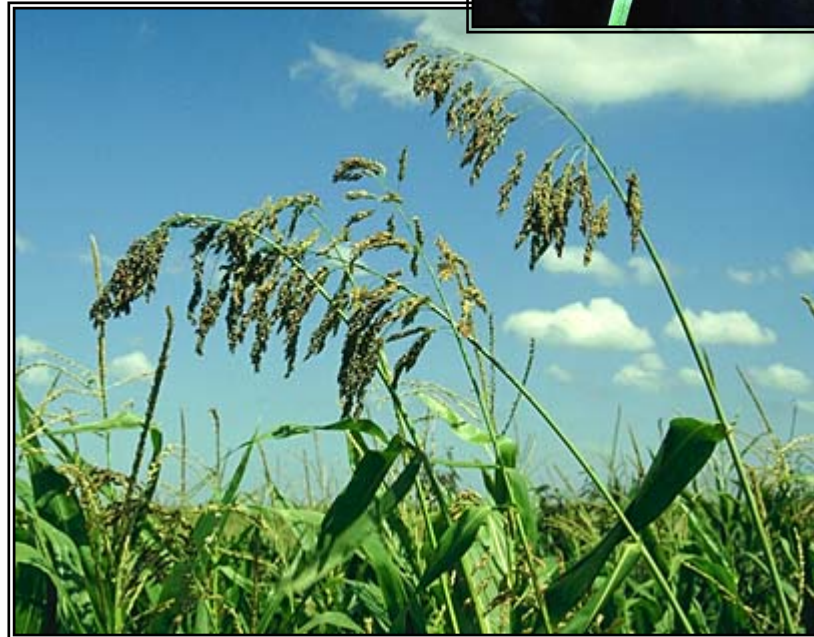
Shattercane

Sorghum bicolor



Control:

Hand pull or mow young plants during the first 7 to 10 days of August before flowering. Targeted treatments of systemic herbicides such as glyphosate work best when plants are 12 to 18 inches tall and actively growing. Possible use of other herbicides will depend on the presence of other vegetation/crops.



Jimsonweed

Datura stramonium

Control:

Hand pull young plants. Targeted applications of systemic herbicides such as glyphosate are effective.



Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum species



Control:

Hand pull small infestations before seed set. Targeted applications of systemic herbicides such as glyphosate (formulated for water or upland areas) are most effective in controlling older plants. Herbicide applications are most effective when applied late in the growing season. Biological control for large infestations has also been approved by USDA. For information contact PA Department of Ag @ 717-772-5209.



Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum



Report all sightings.
Giant Hogweed Hotline:
1-877-464-9333

Control:

Hand pulling or cutting are not recommended in controlling this plant. Plants exude a clear watery sap which sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet radiation. This can result in severe burns, blistering and painful dermatitis. These blisters can develop into purplish or brownish scars. Repeated targeted treatments of a systemic herbicides such as glyphosate are the most effective. Always wear protective clothing and avoid getting the sap on your skin.



Goatsrue

Galega officinalis



Control:

Mowing, clipping and cultivation are poor controls for this plant because seed is produced even when plants are small. The most effective control is treatment with selective herbicides such as 2,4-D. Recommend two applications during the growing season for two consecutive years.

