



Spotted Knapweed, *Centaurea maculosa*

Centaurea maculosa

Description: 2-3' tall plant with purple thistle-like flowers, blooms July-Sept.

Treatment: Early detection and cutting, do not let this plant go to seed. Spot spray with a selective broadleaf herbicide such as clopyralid during bud growth in June.



Burdock, *Arcticum minus*

Description: Biennial plant that can grow up to 5' high, with alternating very large fuzzy leaves. Resembles rhubarb.

Treatment: Hand-cutting and pulling, weed hacking or mowing. Do not let the flowers go to seed.

Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*

Description: Biennial plant, 1-3' high, blooms in the second year in May. Likely to be the only thing blooming this time of year.

Treatment: Hand pulling is effective.



Reed Canary Grass

Phalaris arundinacea

Description: Perennial coarse cool season grass that grows 2-6' in height. Flowers are green to purple and bloom mid-May to June.

Treatment: Hand-cutting and pulling are less effective. Smother with black plastic. If expansive, a chemical application of glyphosate in the fall when native plants are dormant.

Quack Grass, *Elytrigia repens*

Description: A cool season perennial grass with linear bluish-white leaves.

The grass grows 1-3' high.

Treatment: Hand-cutting and pulling are less effective. You can smother it with black plastic.

For chemical treatment, use glyphosate or sethoxydim applied in the spring or fall.



Buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica*

or *Frangula alnus*

Description: Common buckthorn is a small tree. Small black fruits form in the fall. Leaves are broad, oval, rounded or pointed at the tip, with 3-4 pairs of veins and jagged, toothed margins.

Treatment: Pull seedlings. When trees are cut, treat cut stumps with glyphosphate or triclopyr herbicide.



Canada Thistle, *Cirsium arvense*

Description: A creeping perennial plant that can grow 1-5' tall. Numerous flower heads that are pink or purple. Leaves are spiny.

Treatment: Hand pull with a dandelion digger tool to get at the long tap root. If infestations are expansive, the most effective time for herbicide application is at the regrowth stage in the fall.



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Sweet Clover: white & yellow
Melilotis alba; Melilotis officialis
Description: Biennial plants, yellow sweet clover blooms earlier and is usually shorter. Plants for 3-5' high and are bush-like and fragrant.
Treatment: Hand pulling when soil is moist before flowers emerge.

Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*

Description: 6-24" tall; yellow blooms in May which turns to white see heads.
Treatment: Hand pulling with specialized dandelion diggers is best; be sure to get the tap root.



Butter & Eggs, *Linaria vulgaris*
Description: Perennial that can be 1-2' tall. Blooms June-Sept.
Treatment: Manual hand pulling, cover with black plastic. Chemicals are not effective.

Bird's Foot Trefoil, *Lotus corniculata*

Description: Perennial that can be up to 2' tall. Blooms May-Aug.
Treatment: Manual hand pulling is effective. Chemical - clopyralid in early spring according to label instructions. DO NOT burn.



Tansey, *Tanacetum vulgare*
Description: Perennial that can be 3-5' tall. Single stem branches out with small, yellow button-like flowers.
Treatment: Manual hand pulling, cover with black plastic. Chemicals are not effective.

Quick Guide to Common
Raingarden Weeds



Goldenrod
Solidago canadensis, Solidago gigantea
Description: Bright yellow, small and star like flowers that can grow 3-6' tall. Blooms late July-Aug.
Treatment: Hand pulling is preferred. If expansive, chemical spot treatment with glyphosphate in late spring.

Common Ragweed

Ambrosia artemisiifolia
Description: Summer Annual, 1-3' tall, produces abundant pollen which can be easily mistaken for goldenrod since they bloom at a similar time.
Treatment: Hand-pulling is effective, or weed hacking right before it begins to flower.



For raingardens, hand weeding is ***always*** preferred. The deep rooted native plants will draw chemical herbicides into our groundwater quickly. Be SMART when using herbicides. Use them only when necessary, and wear protective clothing. Keep children and pets away. Follow the label exactly, THE LABEL IS THE LAW.