

**COMMON WEEDS**  
**OF**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMPOSITE LIST OF COMMON WEEDS OF**

**MASSACHUSETTS  
COMPILED BY  
DR. PRASANTA C. BHOWMIK**

**A. SPORE PRODUCERS:**

1. **MOSS FAMILY** (Bryum spp.)

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>
Mosses	<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	Perennial

2. **HORSETAIL FAMILY** (Equisetaceae)

Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Perennial
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**B. MONOCOTYLEDONS:**

Embryo with one cotyledon (seed leaf) leaves, usually parallel veined and narrow or linear in shape; leaf petiole (leaf stalk) seldom developed, flower parts usually in threes or multiples of three.

1. **SPIDERWORT FAMILY** (Commelinaceae)

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>
Asiatic day flower	<i>Commelina communis</i>	Annual

2. **SEDGE FAMILY** (Cyperaceae): Grass- like habit; often found in wet places, leaf sheaths usually closed and ligule usually absent; stems 3-angled (triangular), usually solid, and not jointed.

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>
Yellow nutsedge	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	Perennial
Hop sedge	<i>Carex lupulina</i>	Perennial

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>
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**3. RUSH FAMILY** (Juncaceae)

Slender rush	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Perennial
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**4. GRASS FAMILY** (Poaceae/Graminaeae): Usually found in dry places; leaf sheath generally open and ligule (membranous appendage at top of leaf sheath) usually present; stems round or flat, usually hollow between nodes, and jointed.

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>
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Barnyardgrass	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	Annual
Bermudagrass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Perennial
Bluegrass, annual	<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual
Bluegrass, roughstalk	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Annual
Crabgrass, smooth	<i>Digitaria ischaemum</i>	Annual
Crabgrass, large	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	Annual
Dallisgrass	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Annual
Foxtail, yellow	<i>Setaria glauca</i>	Annual
Foxtail, green	<i>Setaria viridis</i>	Annual
Foxtail, giant	<i>Setaria faberi</i>	Annual
Goosegrass	<i>Eleusine indica</i>	Annual
Japanese siltweed	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Annual
Nimblewill	<i>Muhlenbergia schreberi</i>	Perennial
Panicum, fall	<i>Panicum dichotomiflorum</i>	Annual
Proso millet, wild	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	Annual
Quackgrass	<i>Agropyron repens</i>	Perennial
Witchgrass	<i>Panicum capillare</i>	Annual
Wild oat	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Annual
Wirestem muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia frondosa</i>	Perennial

## C. DICOTYLEDONS:

Embryos with 2 cotyledons; herbaceous or woody: leaves usually net-veined (pinnately or palmately) and usually broader in shape; leaf petiole usually developed; flower parts usually in fours or fives.

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>
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### 1. BUCKWHEAT/SMARTWEED FAMILY (Polygonaceae)

Buckwheat, wild	<i>Polygonum convolvus</i>	Annual
Curley dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Perennial
Knotweed, prostrate	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Annual
Knotweed, Japanese	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Perennial
Ladysthumb	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Annual
Pennsylvania smartweed	<i>Polygonum pennsylvanicum</i>	Annual
Red sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Perennial

### 2. GOOSEFOOT FAMILY (Chenopodiaceae)

Common lambsquarters	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Annual
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola kali</i>	Annual

### 3. PIGWEED/AMARANTH FAMILY (Amaranthaceae)

Pigweed, prostrate	<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i>	Annual
Pigweed, redroot	<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	Annual
Pigweed, smooth	<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	Annual
Spiny amaranth	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i>	Annual

### 4. POKEWEED FAMILY (Phytolaccaceae)

Pokeweed, common	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Perennial
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### 5. PURSLANE FAMILY (Portulacaceae)

Common purslane	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	Annual
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**6. CARPETWEED FAMILY (Aizoaceae)**

Carpetweed	<i>Mollugo verticillata</i>	Annual
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**7. PINK FAMILY (Caryophyllaceae)**

Bladder campion	<i>Silene cucubalus</i>	Perennial
Bouncingbet	<i>Saponaris officinalis</i>	Perennial
Chickweed, common	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Annual (W)
Chickweed, mouse-ear	<i>Cerestium vulgatum</i>	Perennial
Corn spurry	<i>Spergula arvesnis</i>	Annual
White cockle	<i>Lychnis alba</i>	Perennial

**8. BUTTERCUP/ CROWFOOT FAMILY (Ranunculaceae)**

Tall buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Perennial
Bulbous buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Perennial

**9. MUSTARD FAMILY (Brassicaceae/ Cruciferaeae)**

Field pennycress	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	Annual
Hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	Biennial
Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Annual
Field pepperweed	<i>Lepidium campestris</i>	Annual (W)
Virginia pepperweed	<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	Annual
Wild mustard	<i>Brassica kaber</i>	Annual
Wild radish	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Annual (w)
Yellow rocket	<i>Berbarea vulgaris</i>	Perennial

**10. ROSE FAMILY (Rosaceae)**

Cinquefoil, field	<i>Potentilla simplex</i>	Perennial
Cinquefoil, rough	<i>Potentilla norvegica</i>	Annual/Biennial
Cinquefoil, silver	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Perennial
Cinquefoil, sulfur	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Perennial
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Perennial
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Perennial
<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>

**11. LEGUME/PEA FAMILY (Fabaceae/ Leguminaceae)**

Clover, hop	<i>Trifolium agrarium</i>	Annual
Clover, rabbitfoot	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Annual
Clover, red	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Perennial
Clover, white	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Perennial
Black medic	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Perennial
Wild vetch	<i>Vicia species</i>	Perennial
Narrowleaf vetch	<i>Vicia angustifolia</i>	Annual

**12. WOODSORREL FAMILY (Oxalidaceae)**

Yellow wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	Perennial
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**13. GERANIUM FAMILY (Geraniaceae)**

Carolina geranium	<i>Geranium carolinianum</i>	Annual/Biennial
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**14. SPURGE FAMILY (Euphorbiaceae)**

Spurge, leafy	<i>Euphorbia escula</i>	Perennial
Spurge, prostrate	<i>Euphorbia maculata</i>	Annual
Spurge, spotted	<i>Euphorbia preslii</i>	Annual
Virginia copperleaf	<i>Acalypha virginica</i>	Annual

**15. CASHEW FAMILY (Anacardiaceae)**

Poison ivy	<i>Rhus radicans</i>	Perennial
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**16. MALLOW FAMILY (Malvaceae)**

Mallow, common	<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Annual/Biennial
Mallow, Venice	<i>Hibiscus troinum</i>	Annual
Velvetveaf	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	Annual

COMMON NAME                      SCIENTIFIC NAME                      LIFE CYCLE

**17. ST. JOHNSWORT FAMILY (Guttiferae)**

St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perennial
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**18. CARROT/ PARSLEY FAMILY (Apiaceae/ Umbelliferae)**

Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Biennial
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Biennial
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Biennial

**19. DOGBANE FAMILY (Apocynaceae)**

Hemp dogbane	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Perennial
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**20. MILKWEED FAMILY (Asclepiadaceae)**

Milkweed, common	<i>Aclepias syriaca</i>	Perennial
Milkweed, whorled	<i>Aclepias verticillata</i>	Perennial

**21. MORNING GLORY FAMILY (Convolvulacea)**

Bindweed, field	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Perennial
Bindweed, hedge	<i>Convolvulus sepium</i>	Perennial
Dodder	<i>Cascuta spp.</i>	Annual
Tall morningglory	<i>Ipomia purpurea</i>	Annual

**22. VERBAIN FAMILY (Verbenaceae)**

Blue verbain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Perennial
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**23. MINT FAMILY (Lamiaceae)**

Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Perennial
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Perennial
Heal-all	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Perennial
Henbit	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Annual
Motherwort	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Perennial
<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>

**24. NIGHTSHADE FAMILY (Solanaceae)**

Groundcherry	<i>Physalis heterophylla</i>	Perennial
Horsenettle	<i>Solanum carolinense</i>	Perennial
Jimsonweed	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Annual
Nightshade, black	<i>Solanum nigum</i>	Annual
Nightshade, bitter	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Perennial
Nightshade, eastern black	<i>Solanum ptycanthum</i>	Annual

**25. FIGWORT FAMILY (Scrophulariaceae)**

Common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Biennial
Speedwell, common	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Perennial
Speedwell, corn	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Annual (W)
Speedwell, purslane	<i>Veronica peregrina</i>	Annual
Speedwell, slender/creeping	<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Perennial
Speedwell, thymeleaf	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Perennial
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Perennial

**26. PLANTAIN FAMILY (Plantaginaceae)**

Plantain, broadleaf	<i>Plantago major</i>	Perennial
Plantain, buckhorn	<i>Plantage lanceolata</i>	Perennial

**27. MADDER FAMILY (Rubiaceae)**



Catchweed bedstraw	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Annual
Poorjoe	<i>Diodia teres</i>	Annual

## 28. GOURD FAMILY (Cucurbitaceae)

Cucumber, wild	<i>Echinocystit lobata</i>	Annual
Cucumber, bur	<i>Sicyos angulatus</i>	Annual

## 29. BLUE-BELL FAMILY (Campanulaceae)

Bell flower	<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Perennial
<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>

## 30. COMPOSITAE or ASTER FAMILY (Compositae)

Aster, heath	<i>Aster ericoides</i>	Perennial
Burdock, common	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Biennial
Dandelion, common	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Perennial
Chicory	<i>Chichorium intybus</i>	Perennial
Cocklebur, common	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Annual
Fleabane, daisy (rough)	<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	Annual
Galinsoga (small-flowered)	<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>	Annual
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago species</i>	Perennial
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Annual (S/W)
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Perennial
Hawkweed, yellow	<i>Hieracium pratense</i>	Perennial
Hawkweed, orange	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Perennial
Horseweed	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Annual
Jerusalem artichoke	<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Perennial
Mayweed	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Annual (W)
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Perennial
Oxeye daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucathemum</i>	Perennial
Pineapple weed	<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	Annual
Prickly lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Annual
Ragweed, common	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Annual
Ragweed, giant	<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	Annual
Sunflower, wild	<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>	Annual
Sow thistle, perennial	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Perennial
Sow thistle, annual	<i>Sonchus oleraceous</i>	Annual
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centuria maculosa</i>	Biennial/P

Thistle, bull	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Biennial
Thistle, Canada	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Perennial
Thistle, musk	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Biennial
Thistle, plumeless	<i>Cirsium acanthioides</i>	Biennial
Yarrow, common	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Perennial
Yellow goat's beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Biennial

31. **LILLY FAMILY** (Liliaceae)

Garlic, wild	<i>Allium vineale</i>	Perennial
Onion, wild	<i>Allium canadense</i>	Annual

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>LIFE CYCLE</u>
<b>32. HEMP FAMILY (Cannabanaceae)</b>		
Hemp	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Annual
<b>33. NETTLE FAMILY (Urticaceae)</b>		
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Perennial
<b>34. VIOLET FAMILY (Violaceae)</b>		
Field violet	<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Annual
Field pansy	<i>Viola bicolor</i>	Annual
<b>35. SPIDERWORT FAMILY (Commelinaceae)</b>		
Virginia day-flower	<i>Commelina virginica</i>	Annual
<b>36. LOOSESTRIFE FAMILY (Lythraceae)</b>		
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lathrum salicaria</i>	Perennial
<b>37. PRIMEROSE FAMILY (Primulaceae)</b>		
Moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Perennial

## LIST OF COMMON INVASIVE WEED SPECIES

1.	Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Perennial
2.	Japanese siltweed	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Annual
3.	Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Perennial
4.	Purple loosestrife	<i>Lathrum salicaria</i>	Perennial
5.	Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Perennial