

Weed Garden Summer

"WEEDS ARE FLOWERS TOO, ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM".....EEYORE

For more information or help in weed identification and use of herbicides, contact the Virginia Tech Extension Office in Chesapeake at (757) 382-6348.

Before eating any part of a plant, make sure to verify that the plant has been properly identified.

Use herbicides with care and follow all guidance on usage.

Name	How to Identify	Edible	Good for Pollinators	Other Uses	Ways to Manage	Picture
Bermuda Grass (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>)	Also called wire grass or devil grass, Bermuda grass is a warm season, perennial grass. Short gray-green color narrow blades. Thin stems, elongated internodes and weak rhizomes.	Edible, but not easily digested by humans.	Supports crickets, grasshoppers, worms among others.	Tough lawn turf, forage for milk cows, controls erosion. Sometimes used for medicinal purposes.	Maintain healthy turf. Dig out by hand in gardens getting all deep roots. For larger areas use solarization. Treat with selective herbicide.	
Spotted Spurge (<i>Euphorbia maculata</i>)	Dark green plant with red stems. Grows low to the ground in a mat-like characteristic. Leaves are oval shaped with a red spot in the center.	No. Milky sap can be an irritant to skin and poisonous if ingested.	No.	None.	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand or hoe before seed sets. Treat with herbicide.	
Eastern Daisy Fleabane (<i>Erigeron annuus</i>)	Composite flowers, hairy stems and hairy leaves. Long oval or lance shaped basal leaves. Smaller, toothed leaves along the stem. Many small, daisy-like flowers.	Only the leaves are edible. Cooked rather than raw due to hairy/furry texture.	Attracts bees, beneficial insects, butterflies	Hybrid versions are sometimes cultivated.	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand or hoe before seed sets. Make sure to remove long taproot. Treat with herbicide.	
Annual Bluegrass (<i>Poa annua</i>)	Clump forming grass. Prow-shaped leaf tips, yellow green in color. Whitish flower head.	No.	Seed heads attract pollinators	Golf course putting surfaces.	Maintain healthy turf; under watering could help limit growth. Treat with herbicide.	

Name	How to Identify	Edible	Good for Pollinators	Other Uses	Ways to Manage	Picture
Common Chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i>)	Low growing with a mat-like appearance. Slender stem with smooth and shiny leaves. Star shaped, five petaled flower that is notched so it looks like ten petals.	All parts above root, including flowers, are edible.	Important for early season pollinators	Sometimes for medicinal purposes. Ground cover. Prevent erosion. Chickens/birds eat it.	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand or hoe before seed sets. Treat with herbicide. Dies back on its own in summer heat.	
Common Plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>)	Oval shaped medium leaves that grow in a rosette form. Low growth habit. Tall, thin spikes with tiny flowers.	Edible leaves and seeds. Young leaves can be eaten raw like spinach.	Seeds and leaves support birds, wildlife, butterflies and moths.	Sometimes used for medicinal purposes.	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand or hoe before seed sets. Pre/post emergent herbicide.	
Dogfennel (<i>eupatorium capillifolium</i>)	Made up of several tall, stiff, upright stems with crowded, feathery, finely-dissected leaves. Leaves are unpleasantly aromatic when crushed. Small, greenish-white flowers.	Plant is toxic; do not eat.	Attracts bees and wasps	Sometimes used for insecticide and medicinal purposes.	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand or hoe before seed sets. Remove completely; plant resprouts from broken stems. Treat with herbicide.	
Japanese Clover (<i>Kummerowia striata</i>)	Can grow erect or prostrate. Leaves are small, with dark green tops and light green underneath. Small flower in pink, purple and white sprouting from leaf axis in clusters of one to three.	Leaves and seeds are edible when cooked.	Eaten by pollinators, small wildlife and birds. Can also be used for grazing.	Sometimes used for medicinal purposes. Fixes nitrogen in the soil.	Maintain healthy turf. Aerate soil. Pull by hand or hoe before seed sets. Treat with herbicide.	
Common Yellow Wood Sorrel (<i>Oxalis stricta</i>)	Looks very similar to shamrock-type clover, but flower is very different, being 5-petaled. Low growing plants with thin stems.	All parts of the plant are edible, but contain oxalic acid; limit amount ingested	Attracts pollinators.	Sometime used for medicinal purposes.	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand getting all the roots. Treat with herbicide.	
Horseweed (<i>Conyza canadensis</i>)	Early form is a basal rosette. Mature plant is unbranched with many long narrow leaves. Small white flowers and dandelion-type seeds.	Young leaves are edible; usually dried and used like a spice. Seedlings are also edible.	Host plant for a variety of insects.	Sometimes used for medicinal purposes. Historically used as an insect repellent.	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand, mow or hoe before seed sets. Treat with herbicide while still in rosette stage.	

Name	How to Identify	Edible	Good for Pollinators	Other Uses	Ways to Manage	Picture
Annual Ragweed (<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>)	Green leaves are up to 6 inches long and 4 inches wide. Leaves are deeply lobed with the base being much wider than the tip. Flower spikes occur and may have 2 short side spikes.	Pollen causes seasonal allergy reactions. Ingesting can cause allergic reactions.	Sheep, horses, small animals and birds eat plant/seeds.	Evidence of historical use of seeds as a food item. Sometimes used for medicinal purposes.	Maintain healthy turf. Aerate soil. Pull by hand or hoe before seed sets. Treat with herbicide.	
Virginia Buttonweed (<i>Diodia virginiana</i>)	Low growing, prostate and spreading. Leaves are , oval shaped and often have a yellow mottled appearance caused by a virus. Flowers are white with four star shaped petals.	No.	Enjoyed by bees. Host plant for some beetles.	Sometimes used in native or pollinator gardens.	Maintain healthy turf. Deep and infrequent watering may help turf to compete. Difficult to remove; roots left behind will propagate. Treat with herbicide.	
Carolina Horsenettle (<i>Solanum carolinense</i>)	Prickles covering the stems and leaves. Stems are upright and branching. Leaves have 2-3 lobes and are 1-3 inches long. White star shaped flowers	All parts are potential poisonous to humans and livestock.	Visited by bees and beetles.	Sometimes used for medicinal purposes.	Can be controlled by repetitive mowing; Initial mowing should occur after flowering when roots are weakest. Treat with herbicide.	
Blue Fieldmadder (<i>Sheradzia arvensis</i>)	Prostrate crawling habit. Whorled leaves, square stems, and small pink to purple flowers.	No.	Limited	Can be used to make a reddish dye. Sometimes used for medicinal purposes	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand, mow or hoe before seed sets. Treat with herbicide.	
White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>)	Leaves are formed from three leaflets which have small teeth along the edges. Flowers are arranged in clumps and are usually white or light pink, growing on separate stalks.	All parts are edible	Attractive to bees, small wildlife and grazing animals.	Cover crop. Can fix nitrogen in the soil. Good forage for livestock. Controls erosion.	Maintain healthy turf. Pull by hand or hoe before seed sets. Try to capture all roots. Treat with herbicide.	



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