



# Lawn Weeds of Utah

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# Annual Bluegrass

## *Poa annua*

- Cool season winter annual grass
- Seed heads are almost always present
- Dies back when weather gets hot and dry
- Thrives with excess moisture and shade

# Annual Bluegrass

*Poa annua*



# Barnyard Grass

## *Echinochloa crusgalli*

- Warm season annual grass
- Flattened basal stems are reddish purple
- Seed head branches into 6 or 8 segments
- Likes excess moisture



Barnyard Grass  
*Echinochloa crusgalli*



# Bentgrass

## *Agrostis* spp.

- Cool season perennial grass
- Low growing stolon forming grass
- Desirable grass for golf tees and greens
- Predominates when turf is mowed short
- Tolerates sun or shade



Bentgrass  
*Agrostis* spp.





# Bermuda Grass

## *Cynodon dactylon*

- Warm season perennial grass
- Noxious weed in everywhere in Utah except Washington County
- Seed head branches into crowfoot pattern
- Forms rhizomes and stolons

# Bermuda Grass

*Cynodon dactylon*





# Black Medic

## *Medicago lupulina*

- Annual or short lived perennial
- Trailing stems
- Three leaflet leaves with prominent veins
- Small yellow flower clusters
- Black seed pods at maturity

# Black Medic

*Medicago lupulina*





# Chickweed, Common

## *Stellaria media*

- Annual
- Small, opposite, smooth, and oval leaves
- Weak vining stems
- Small white star-like flowers

Chickweed, Common  
*Stellaria media*





# Crabgrass

## *Digitaria spp.*

- Warm season annual
- Prostrate stems
- Roots down where each joint contacts ground or wet grass
- Seed head is divided into several fingerlike segments

# Crabgrass

*Digitaria spp.*



# Creeping Bellflower

*Campanula spp.*

- Cool season perennial
- Escaped ornamental
- Flowers are showy, deep blue to purple
- Vigorous underground root system



# Creeping Bellflower

*Campanula spp.*



# Dandelion

## *Taraxacum spp.*

- Cool season perennial
- Bloom: March to late November
- Common throughout Utah
- One of the showiest lawn weeds

# Dandelion

*Taraxacum spp.*





# Dock

## *Rumex spp.*

- Large rosette that rarely reaches maturity
- Leaves have crinkled edges
- Leaves often tinted with red or purple
- Flowering stalks may reach two to three feet high

Dock  
*Rumex spp.*



# Field Bindweed

## *Convolvulus arvensis*

- Cool season perennial
- Extremely difficult to control
- Leaf tips and basal lobes are rounded
- Flowers are white to light pink
- Vines readily
- Spreads by seeds and underground roots



# Field Bindweed

*Convolvulus arvensis*



# Foxtail

## *Setaria spp.*

- Warm season annual
- Grow with same conditions as crabgrass
- Three types; red, green, and yellow

# Foxtail

*Setaria spp.*





# Grape Hyacinth

## *Muscari armeniacum*

- Escaped ornamental bulb
- Foliage usually dies off in summer but grows back green in the fall
- Very difficult to control
- Propagates from seed and bulb divisions

# Grape Hyacinth

*Muscari armeniacum*



# Ground Ivy

## *Glechoma hederacea*

- Cool season perennial
- Thrives in shade
- Lavender to blue funnel-form flowers
- Square stems may root where ever joints touch the ground



Ground Ivy  
*Glechoma hederacea*



# Henbit

## *Lamium amplexicaule*

- Winter annual
- Squarish stems
- Lavender to blue flowers
- Leaves opposite
- Blooms: Late March to April
- Plants upright



# Henbit

*Lamium amplexicaule*





# Kochia

## *Kochia scoparia*

- Annual
- First leaves have a silvery pubescence
- Leaf and stem color varies from greenish yellow to greenish red
- Very adaptable
- Germination starts in late March and continues throughout the summer

Kochia  
*Kochia scoparia*



# Mallow

## *Malva spp.*

- Long fleshy taproot is almost white
- Flowers are whitish blue
- Seed portion is a flattened disc which breaks into 10 to 20 pie-shaped segments
- Plants are often resistant to herbicides



Mallow  
*Malva spp.*



# Moss

- Prefers a cool and moist environment
- Found in shade
- Control by changing the environment and watering less

# Moss





# Mushrooms or toadstools

## Many species

- Grows when the environment is very moist
- Found in shade
- Control by changing the environment and watering less
- No chemical controls recommended

# Mushrooms or toadstools

## Many species



# Thistle

## Several species

- Biennial
- Leaves are free of hair and have a light colored midrib and leaf lobes are edged in grey-green
- Spiney
- Large, ornate purple flowers



# Thistle

## Several species



# Thistle

## Several species



# Plantain

## *Plantago spp.*

- Cool season perennial
- Rosette with prominently veined leaves
- Leaves are oval shaped and 2 to 3 inches across
- Stems are reddish or purple
- Rat-tail like seed heads



# Plantain

*Plantago spp. (broadleaf)*



# Plantain

*Plantago spp. (narrowleaf)*



# Prostrate Knotweed

## *Polygonum aviculare*

- Annual
- Long white taproot
- Stems wiry, very leafy, with a papery sheath at each joint
- Leaves have a bluish cast
- Three-cornered, light brown seeds that are shiny black at maturity



# Prostrate Knotweed

*Polygonum aviculare*



# Prostrate Pigweed

## *Amaranthus blitoides*

- Warm season annual
- Prostrate growing from a pink taproot
- Smooth stems, light green to reddish green
- Spreads 1 1/2 to 2 feet
- Seeds lens shaped, small, and shiny black



# Prostrate Pigweed

*Amaranthus blitoides*





# Prostrate Vervain

## *Verbena bracteata*

- Warm season annual
- Low growing, hairy
- Stems branch freely forming circular patterns of growth
- Leaves often wedge shaped and toothed
- Taproot

Prostrate Vervain  
*Verbena bracteata*



# Puncturevine

## *Tribulus terrestris*

- Warm season annual
- Prostrate, freely branching
- Taproot
- Leaflets bright green and slightly hairy
- Flowers yellow
- Seeds angled with two stout spines



Puncturevine  
*Tribulus terrestris*



# Purslane

## *Portulaca oleracea*

- Warm season annual
- Leaves and stems fleshy or succulent, reddish in color
- Stems root when they touch ground
- Flowers small, yellow
- Seeds very small, black

# Purslane

*Portulaca oleracea*





# Quackgrass

## *Agropyron repens*

- Cool season perennial wheatgrass
- Spreads by underground stems and roots
- Ring of root hairs every inch along white underground stems
- Lower leaf sheath hairy
- Leaf blades twice the width of bluegrass

# Quackgrass

## *Agropyron repens*



# Sandbur

## *Cenchrus pauciflorus*

- Warm season annual
- Stems flattened and branched
- Found in poorly maintained turf
- Often confused with yellow foxtail before formation of spiny burrs



Sandbur  
*Cenchrus pauciflorus*



# Sheperd's Purse

## *Capsella bursa-pastoris*

- Winter annual
- Deeply lobed leaves form rosettes
- White flowers
- Triangular seed pods filled with tiny brownish seeds resemble purses once carried by sheperds

# Sheperd's Purse

*Capsella bursa-pastoris*





# Speedwell

## *Veronica spp.*

- Winter or early spring annual
- Leaves small with scalloped edges
- Flowers light blue with white throat
- Divided seed pods are almost heart-shaped
- Low growing

Speedwell  
*Veronica spp.*



# Spurge, Prostrate *Euphorbia maculata*

- Warm season annual
- Milky sap
- Leaves with or without reddish brown spots
- Seeds born in three's in a capsule
- Prominent in July, August, and September



Spurge, Prostrate  
*Euphorbia maculata*



# Star of Bethlehem

## *Ornithogalum umbellatum*

- Warm season annual
- Milky sap
- Leaves with or without reddish brown spots
- Seeds born in three's in a capsule
- Prominent in July, August, and September

Star of Bethlehem  
*Ornithogalum umbellatum*





# Tall Fescue

## *Festuca arundinacea*

- Cool season perennial
- Leaf veins are strongly fibrous and when mowed fibers show on edges
- Mature leaf blades may be one-half an inch wide, ribbed above and shiny below
- Lower portions are reddish to purple

# Tall Fescue

*Festuca arundinacea*



# Violets

## *Viola spp.*

- Cool season perennial
- Flower color varies from very light blue to deep purple
- Prefer light shade
- Bloom in spring



# Violets

*Viola spp.*



# White Clover

## *Trifolium repens*

- Cool season perennial
- Spreads by below and above ground stems
- Flowers are white, sometimes tinged pink
- Seeds live for 20 years or more in soil
- Objectionable in lawns

# White Clover

*Trifolium repens*





# Yellow Nutsedge

## *Cyperus esculentus*

- Warm season perennial
- Lower portion of plant is fibrous and brown
- Roots often terminate with small nutlets
- Seed heads appear bur-like
- Triangular stems of sedges produce 3-ranked leaves near the ground

Yellow Nutsedge  
*Cyperus esculentus*



# Yellow Woodsorrel

## *Oxalis stricta*

- Warm season perennial
- Leaves are palmately divided into three leaflets
- Funnel-form yellow flowers
- Seed head a long beak
- Sour taste from calcium oxalate



# Yellow Woodsorrel

*Oxalis stricta*



# Yellow Woodsorrel

*Oxalis stricta*





# Thank You

- For More information
- Contact Utah State University Extension Service at
- <http://extension.usu.edu/>

