Oklahoma's

Unwanted Invasive Plants

DOZENS

Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council

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Word Descriptions

Common Name: A name based on the normal language of every day life.

Scientific Name: A formal naming system in Latin.

Native Plants: Plants that come from that area.

Erosion Control: Preventing or controlling wind or water erosion.

Crowding Out: Many times invasive plants "crowd out" native plants. This can be bad for wildlife because crowding out can remove food and shelter for wildlife.

Introduced: When an invasive plant is brought to the United States from another country, where it is native.

Ornamental Plant: A plant that people use in flower beds, or for decoration.

Evergreen: A plant that has leaves all year that are always green.

Noxious Weed: A harmful weed that has been designated by an agricultural authority.

Instructions:

Read the words on each page about the plants to learn why each plant is listed on the Dirty Dozen list. Color the pictures of the top invasive plants in Oklahoma the way you see fit.

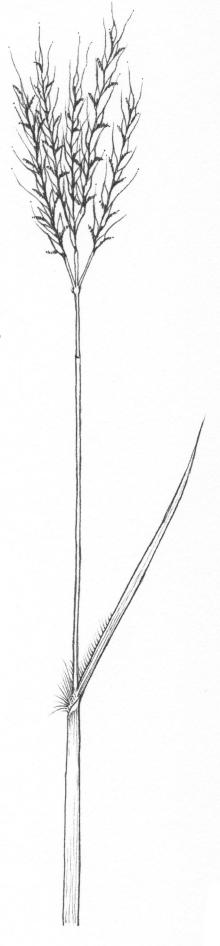
Common Name: Sericea Lespedeza Scientific Name: Lespedeza Cuneata

In 1899, Sericea lespedeza, a native to China and Japan, was planted for erosion control and as an additional food source for quail. It has now spread throughout most of Oklahoma. It has been proven to not be a good food source for quail, other wildlife and livestock, and is bad for native plants because it crowds them out.



Common Name: Yellow Bluestem Scientific Name: Bothriochloa ischaemum

In the early 1900s, Yellow Bluestem was brought to the United States from Southern Europe and Asia for livestock forage and erosion control. Today, this plant can be found throughout the state, crowding out native grasses, and is bad for most wildlife because the plants they eat and use for cover are crowded out by Yellow Bluestem.



Common Name: Johnsongrass Scientific Name: Sorghum halepense

Johnsongrass was known for livestock forage and for hay production, but under certain conditions it can become toxic to livestock. It was introduced from the Mediterranean region around the 1830s, and has spread across the entire state of Oklahoma. It crowds out native plants, removing the plants they need for food and cover, which is bad for wildlife.

Common Name: Cheatgrass Scientific Name: Bromus tectorum

Cheatgrass is not only spreading across Oklahoma, but also the rest of the United States. It was originally introduced when used as a transport packing material from Europe. This can completely crowd out other native plants.

Common Name: Chinese Privet Scientific Name: Ligustrum sinense

The Chinese Privet was brought from China as an ornamental plant, but was discovered to form dense thickets, which shades out native plants. This exotic plant can now be found in the eastern third of Oklahoma and scattered in the southwest part of the state.

Common Name: Field Brome Scientific Name: Bromus Arvensis

During the past 60 years, Field Brome has outcompeted desirable plants for water and soil nutrients. Field was brought to the United States from Eurasia for erosion control and use as a cover crop. This plant can be found in most parts of Oklahoma, except the northeast corner.

Common Name: Hydrilla Scientific Name: Hydrilla Verticillata

Hydrilla is an aquatic plant native to warm regions of Asia and possibly Africa. Hydrilla can form dense mats in lakes that can stop the flow of water and stop people from wanting to ski or fish. Hydrilla can grow in lakes that have been polluted with too many nutrients, and it blocks out sunlight in the water and stops native aquatic plants from growing.



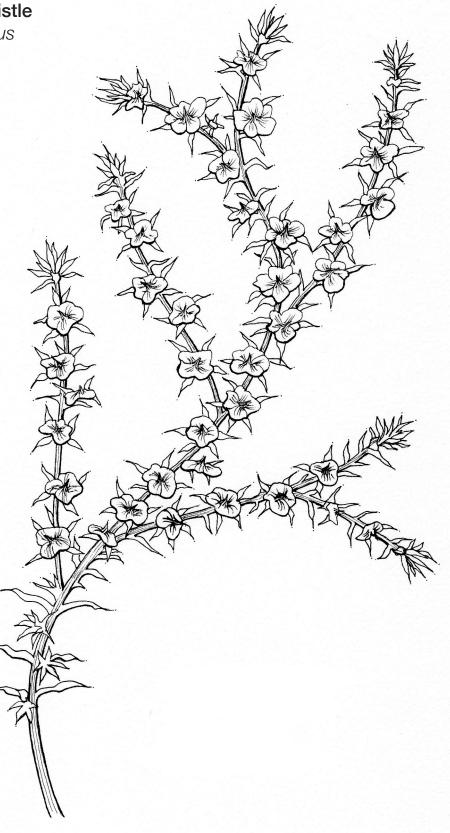
Common Name: Japanese Honeysuckle Scientific Name: Lonicera japonica

In the early 1800s, Japanese Honeysuckle was brought to the United States for deer food, erosion control, and as an ornamental. Today, this evergreen vine from Japan can be found in the eastern part of Oklahoma as well as several western counties. Japanese Honeysuckle spreads rapidly, crowding out native pants.

Common Name: Musk (Nodding) Thistle Scientific Name: Carduus nutans Musk (Nodding) Thistle was accidentally introduced in the late 1800s. It is mainly found in the north half of the state and scattered throughout south central and extreme southeast Oklahoma. Musk (nodding) thistle is a noxious weed in Oklahoma. It crowds out native plants and food for livestock and wildlife. Color this plant the way you think it would look in nature.

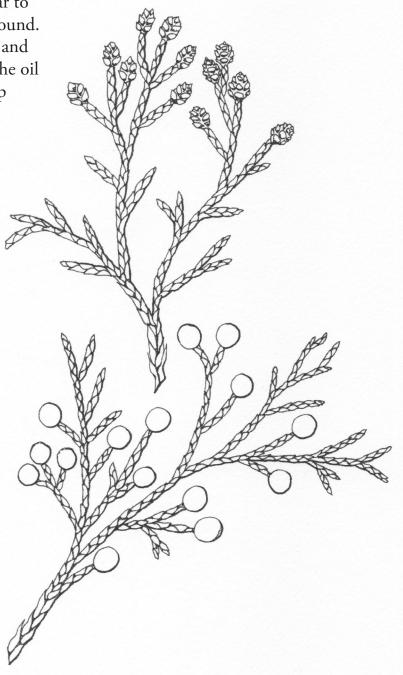
Common Name: Russian Thistle Scientific Name: Salsola tragus

In the 1870s, the prickly Russian Thistle was introduced from Eurasia. This plant becomes the tumbleweeds that clog fences. It is now found in the western half of the state.



Common Name: Eastern Redcedar Scientific Name: Juniperus viginiana

Eastern Redcedar is a common evergreen tree found across Oklahoma. Even though this species is native to parts of Oklahoma, the lack of fire allowed Eastern Redcedar to take over areas where it should not be found. Cedar forests outcompete native plants and increase the risk of wildfire because of the oil in the needles. Prescribed fire helps keep eastern redcedar trees from taking over.



Common Name: Saltcedar Scientific Name: Tamarix spp.

Saltcedar is an Asian shrub that was brought in as an ornamental and for erosion control. Originally introduced in 1823, Saltcedar has now spread across the state along streams and rivers, crowding out native plants removing food and cover for wildlife.

Common Name: Siberian Elm Scientific Name: Ulmus pumila

Siberian elm came from China, Siberia, and Turkestan and was brought to America in the 1860s as a replacement for the American Elm after a breakout of Dutch Elm disease. Like other invasive plants, SIberian Elms crowd out native plants.

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