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It is our mission of the Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District to assist area people with soil and water resource management.

April 2, 2019

Together we have put together some information to assist you with weed control.

Inside the packet are pictures and timed and targeted weed control guidelines of specific MN Noxious Weeds that have been found in Mille Lacs County and that are on the control list from the Department of Agriculture (MDA). When a weed makes the control list it means “efforts must be made to prevent the spread, maturation and dispersal of any propagating parts, thereby reducing established populations and preventing reproduction and spread as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.78. Additionally, propagation, sale, or transportation of these plants is prohibited except as allowed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.82.” MDA <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/minnesota-noxious-weed-list>

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs County Agricultural Inspector.

COMMON TANSY



LEAFY SPURGE



WILD PARSNIP



SPOTTED KNAPWEED



CANADA THISTLE



Common Tansy



Grows 3-4 feet tall; can reach 6 feet tall.

Stems are reddish-brown and support the distinctive alternate leaves that are finely divided with a fern-like appearance.

Reproduces by both seeds and rhizomes, forming dense stands.

Flowers are yellow and button-like, arranged in flat-topped clusters at the stem tips. Flowering occurs mid-July to September.

Brown seed heads persist until spring.



Leafy Spurge



Most leafy spurge plants flower in May and June, although mowed stems may flower later.

The leaves are simple and opposite with a blue-grey hue.

If the stems or leaves are cut, a distinctive white, milky sap exudes. One plant can send up clusters of multiple stems that arise from the same underground root system.

The plant reaches a maximum height of about 4 feet.

Palmer Amaranth and Canadian Thistle

Palmer amaranth (right) is a summer annual that commonly reaches heights of 6- 8 feet but can reach 10 feet or more.

Palmer amaranth looks similar to our native pigweeds such as tall waterhemp (*A. tuberculatus*), redroot and smooth pigweeds (*A. retroflexus* and *A. hybridus* respectively). Here are some distinguishing characteristics:

- Redroot and smooth pigweeds have fine hairs on their stems and leaves. Palmer amaranth and waterhemp do not have these hairs.
- The petiole (stalk connecting a leaf to the stem) is longer than the length of the leaf. For tall waterhemp, the petiole will be only half the length of the leaf.
- Seedhead spikes on female Palmer amaranth plants are much taller (up to 3 feet long) and more prickly than waterhemp or redroot and smooth pigweed spikes.



Canadian Thistle (left) is an aggressive perennial with a vigorous root system that continually produces new shoots, invading new areas and outcompeting other vegetation types.

Grows 2 - 5 feet tall.

Leaves are alternate, lance shaped, irregularly lobed, and have wavy spiny/toothed margins.

Flowers are purple and pink, occasionally white, and are borne at the end of the stems in clusters. Buds are 1/2 inch wide by 3/4 -1 inch long, have a tear-dropped shape, and lack spines.

This plant is most recognizable in mid-July when flowers change to seedheads with obvious white fluffy tops. Seeds are attached to the "fluff" and can become airborne and spread to new areas.

Purple Loosestrife



A semi-aquatic perennial species that typically forms a dense bushy growth of many erect stems reaching heights of approximately 4- 7 feet tall. It is highly visible from July through September because of its robust purple flowering spikes.

Leaves are smooth-edged, slender, pointed and arranged in opposite pairs along ridged stems.

Showy spikes of flowers develop at the tops of each stem consisting of many individual 5- 7 petaled purple flowers.

Large roots develop over time and store high levels of nutrients providing the plant with reserves of energy early in the spring or during stressful periods.



Minn Dept of Ag

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Spotted Knapweed



Grows 2- 4 feet tall and has a long tap root.

Foliage is gray-green.

Flowers are small, oval, pink to purple, produced at the end of branched stems and covered with stiff bracts marked with dark, upside-down "V" markings, giving them a spotted appearance. Blooming occurs from June through August.



In the first year, the plant is a low-lying rosette with deeply lobed leaves and a thick taproot. In the second year, the plant bolts, producing stout, branching stems with alternate leaves having few to no lobes, and becoming progressively smaller up the stem.



Wild Parsnip



Grows 4- 6 feet tall.

Leaves alternate along the stem, are pinnately compound, and consist of egg-shaped leaflets having saw-toothed edges that are arranged in pairs along the stalk; becoming progressively smaller near the top of the stem.

Bolted stems are erect, branched, hollow, slightly grooved, and terminate in flat-topped, compound flower umbels. Umbels are generally 2-6 inches wide and contain many small, 5-petaled yellow flowers that bloom from June through late August.