Why are weeds important?
Dr. Angela Post
Extension Weed Science

- ~250,000 plant species exist in the world
- ~200 of these are crops cultivated
- ~200 also account for most weed species.
- ~25 cause major problems in any one crop.

Yield Losses
- Weeds reduce crop yields by about 12%
- ~$33 billion annually
- The impact of weeds goes well beyond measurable economic impact in cropping systems

Harvestability
- Field bindweed

Dockage
- Weed seed is counted in dockage assessments along with foreign material.

Limits Rotational Choices
- jointed goatgrass
Japanese barberry

Almost all weed seeds float and irrigation ponds and reservoirs can be a source for the introduction of weeds to a landscape or cropping system.

Giant hogweed

Most weedy grasses

Ragweeds
Allergies
- Eastern Red Cedar

Other Safety Issues

Reduced Land Values
- leafy spurge
- kudzu

Decreased Aesthetic
- honeylocust
- false green kyllinga

Interfere with Recreation
- hydrilla

Displace natives
- Japanese stiltgrass
Fire Hazards
- Eastern red cedar
- Fountaingrass

Regulations
- Musk Thistle

Oklahoma's Noxious Weed Law
- Scotch Thistle
- Musk Thistle
- Canada Thistle

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Weeds and dockage

Be careful when you google image!
Federally regulated weeds