

Why are weeds important?

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Extension Weed Science

How many weeds are there?

- ▶ ~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



Pest Reservoirs

- ▶ Weedy grasses



- ▶ Japanese barberry



Water Management Problems

- ▶ 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



Poisoning



Poisoning



Dermatitis

- ▶ giant hogweed



Allergies



- ▶ Most weedy grasses



- ▶ ragweeds

Allergies



Other Safety Issues



Reduced Land Values

▶ leafy spurge

▶ kudzu



Decreased Aesthetic



▶ honeylocust



▶ false green kyllinga

Interfere with Recreation

▶ hydrilla



Displace natives



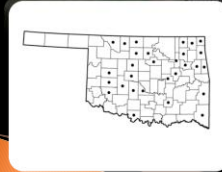
▶ Japanese stiltgrass

Fire Hazards

- ▶ Eastern red cedar
- ▶ fountaingrass



Regulations



Musk Thistle

Oklahoma's Noxious Weed Law



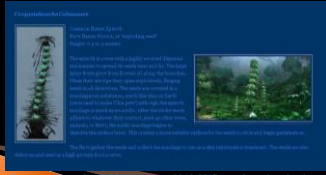
Scotch Thistle



Musk Thistle



Canada Thistle



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weeds and dockage

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Federally regulated weeds