

Weed Identification

Acalypha indica L.

Common Name : Indian copperleaf

Family : Euphorbiaceae

Habit: Erect annual herb; up to 60 cm tall.

Stem: Branches numerous, long, ascending, angular,

finely pubescent.

Leaves: 2.5 - 7.0 cm long and 2-2.5 cm broad, ovate-

rhombic, with long petiole, arranged spirally;

blades acute, margins crenate-serrate.

Flowers: Flowers unisexual, stalkless, borne on

numerous lax, erect, elongate axillary spikes longer than the leaves. Male flowers are minute, crowded distally. Female flowers are scattered along the inflorescence axis, each subtended by a conspicuous semi-cupular leaf-like, toothed, green bract, nearly 7 mm long.

Fruits: Capsules, three valved, covered with

persistent bracts.

Seeds: Ovoid, smooth and pale brown.



Acanthospermum hispidum DC.

Common Name : Bristly starbur

Family : Asteraceae

Habit: Perennial herb or undershrub, 0.5-2 m tall.

Stem: Densely hairy, dichotomous (Y-shaped)

branching, branches numerous, long, ascending,

angular, finely pubescent.

Leaves: Elliptic, oblanceolate or obovate, 1.5-7 cm long

and 0.7-2 cm wide, acute or obtuse at apex, attenuate and subpetiolate at base, margins shallowly serrate, whitish pilose on both surfaces.

Flowers: Yellow, borne in heads in the forks of

dichotomous branches.

Fruits: Achenes triangular covered with stiff hooked

hairs and have either a straight or curved pair of

spines at the top.



Achyranthes aspera L.

Common Name : Devil's horsewhip

Family : Amaranthaceae

Habit: An erect or procumbent, annual or perennial

herb with spreading branches, usually up to 1

m tall, often with a woody base.

Stem: Angular, ribbed, pubescent, simple or

branched from the base, often reddish-

purplish tinged.

Leaves: Opposite, thick, ovate elliptic or obovate-

rounded, but variable in shape and size, 4-12 cm long and up to 8 cm wide, velvety-

tomentose.

Flowers: Greenish-white, numerous, in axillary or

terminal spikes up to 75 cm long; bracts membranous, oblong, enclosed in the

hardened parianth.

Fruits: Utricle, oblong-cylindric, truncate at apex,

rounded at base.

Seeds: Reddish-brown, sub-cylindrical.



Ageratum conyzoides L.

Common Name : Goat weed Family : Asteraceae

Habit: Erect, often branched, annual herb and often

decumbent; up to 120 cm tall.

Stem: Much branched and rooting at the base; stem,

nodes and younger parts with rather long,

partly crispy hairs.

Leaves: Opposite or the upper alternate, broadly ovate

or rhomboid-ovate to triangular, 2-10 cm long and 1.5-5 cm wide, apex subacute, margins crenate, ciliate, base cuneate, more or less hairy

on both surfaces.

Flowers: Flowers in flat-topped, peduncled (5-17 mm

long) corymbs (60-70 flowers). Flowers white, pale blue or violet with a disagreeable odour.

Fruits: Achene oblong, 5-angular, black with pale

base, glabrous or slightly hairy, 1.5-2 mm long

with awn-tipped, serrate pappus-scales.



Amaranthus spinosus L.

Common Name : Spiny pigweed Family : Amaranthaceae

Habit: An erect, branched, annual or perennial herb,

varying in colour from green to purple.

Stem: 30-60 cm tall with hard, straight, paired axillary

spines.

Leaves: Long-petioled, oblong, ovate-elliptic or

lanceolate, acute or obtuse, base cuneate,

generally 1-6 cm long and 0.5-2.6 cm wide.

Flowers: Minute, grayish-green, borne in dense axillary

clusters or terminal spikes.

Fruits: Dehiscent utricle.

Seeds: Oblong, 1.0-1.4 mm long, 0.7-1.0 mm wide,

black, compressed, shining.



Amaranthus viridis Hook. F.

Common Name : Slender amaranth Family : Amaranthaceae

Habit: An erect annual herb.

Stem: 6 to 100 cm tall, glabrous to pubescent,

pubescent especially upwards.

Leaves: Glabrous or pubescent on the veins of the lower

surface; petioles long (up to 10 cm), occasionally longer than the blade; blade ovate to rhombic-oblong, 2-7 x 1.5-5.5 cm, base tapered to blunt, tip rounded, minutely

mucronate, barely to clearly emarginate.

Flowers: Green, unisexual, male and female intermixed,

in slender axillary to terminal paniculate spikes 2-12 cm long and 2-5 mm wide, or in dense axillary clusters in the lower part of the stem.

Fruits: Capsule nearly globose 1.25-1.75 mm long, not

rupturing or rupturing irregularly, surface

rough.

Seeds: 1-1.25 mm, round, slightly compressed, dark

brown to black with a paler thick border.



Ammannia baccifera L.

Common Name : Blistering ammannia

Family : Lythraceae

Habit: An erect annual herb.

Stem: 10-50 cm tall, some what 4-angled, slender,

smooth and more or less purplish.

Leaves: The leaves are oblong, oblanceolate, or

narrowly elliptic, about 3.5 centimeters long; those on the branches are very numerous, small, and 1 to 1.5 centimeters long with narrowed base and pointed or somewhat

rounded tip.

Flowers: The flowers are small, about 1.2 mm long,

greenish or purplish, and borne in dense

axillary clusters.

Fruits: The capsules are nearly spherical, depressed,

about 1.2 mm in diameter, purple, and

irregularly circumssciss above the middle.

Seeds: The seeds are black.



Argemone mexicana L.

Common Name : Mexican prickly poppy

Family : Papavaraceae

Habit: An erect prickly annual herb.

Stem: Up to 1.2 m tall with yellow sap.

Leaves: Sessile, with slightly incised undulated

margins and white veins, spiny on margins,

midrib and veins beneath.

Flowers: Yellow, 2.5-7.5 cm in diameter, with 4-6 petals.

Fruits: Capsules 2-4 cm long, elliptic or oblong,

prickly, rarely unarmed.

Seeds: Numerous, small, round, blackish-brown,

deeply reticulate and pitted.



Bidens pilosa L.

Common Name : Spanish needles

Family : Asteraceae

Habit: An erect, simple or much- branched annual or

perennial herb, 60-90 cm tall.

Stem: Glabrous or more or less pubescent,

quadrangular, grooved; branches opposite.

Leaves: Very variable, sometimes trifoliate, but usually

consisting of 2 sub opposite pairs of leaflets and

a larger, deeply 3-lobed, terminal leaflets.

Flowers: The inflorescence is an isolated or grouped

pedunculated capitula, emerging from the leaf axil. Heads borne singly at the ends of long, slender, nearly leafless branches; narrow, discoid, the disk 4-6 mm wide at anthesis; ray florets white or pale-yellow and disk florets

yellow.

Fruits: Achenes 0.8-1.7 cm long, linear, quadrangular,

slightly tapering towards the apex, black, glabrous, bearing a few pale stiff hairs on the angles in the upper part; pappus bristles 2-4,

straw-coloured, 2-3 mm long.



Calotropis gigantea (L.) Aiton.

Common Name : Crown flower

Family : Asclepiadaceae

Habit: Large shrub, which looks like a small tree; up to

5 m tall.

Stem: Woody with yellowish-white bark. Young

stems and branches covered with soft, loosely appressed, whitish, waxy or some times

powdery pubescence.

Leaves: Fleshy, obovate or obovate-oblong, apex acute,

rarely rounded, base cordate, 6-20 cm long and 3-8 cm wide, glaucous green, smooth above,

cottony below.

Flowers: 14-15 mm long and 3-4.5 cm in diameter;

clusters of waxy flowers that are either white or lavender in colour. Each flower consists of five pointed petals and a small, elegant "crown"

rising from the centre.

Fruits: A follicle.

Seeds: Broadly ovate, flattened, brown in color 2.5-3.2

cm long including the white tuft of hairs at the

pointed end.



Cassia tora (L.) Roxb.

Common Name : Sicklepod

Family : Fabaceae

Habit: A fetid, annual herb or undershrub.

Stem: 0.3-1 m tall with glabrous branches.

Leaves: Leaves 6-12.5 cm long; leaflets in 2-4 opposite

pairs with a conical gland between each of the two lowest pairs of leaflets; blades 1.5-5 cm long and 1.5-2.5 cm wide, membranous, ovate-oblong, apex acute to subacute, often mucronate, base acute to asymmetrically

rounded.

Flowers: Usually in pairs, on very short axillary

peduncle; pale yellow, upper petal 2-lobed and

the others entire.

Fruits: Pods stout, 4-angled, 15-25 cm long, containing

25-30 seeds.

Seeds: 4-5 mm long, rhomboidal, yellowish brown to

tan red, shiny.



Celosia argentea L.

Common Name : Cock's comb

Family : Amaranthaceae

Habit: An erect annual herb.

Stem: Up to 1 m tall with angular stems and grooved

branched.

Leaves: Linear-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate,

acuminate, narrowed at the base, entire, up to

12 cm long and 4 cm wide.

Flowers: White or pink, glistening, borne in feathery,

conical to cylindrical spikes.

Fruits: Membranous utricle.

Seeds: 1.3-1.5 mm long, 1.0-1.2 mm wide, glossy

black, slightly reticulate.



Chenopodium album L.

Common Name : Common lambsquarter

Family : Chenopodiaceae

Habit: A polymorphous, non-aromatic, erect herb.

Stem: 0.3-3 m tall with angled stems that are often

striped green, red or purple, clammy to the

touch.

Leaves: Leaves very variable in size and shape,

rhomboid, deltoid to lanceolate, upper leaves entire, lower ones toothed or irregularly lobes, 10-15 cm long, with petioles often as long as

leaf blades.

Flowers: Green, borne in clusters forming a compact or

loosely panicled axillary spike.

Fruits: Utricle.

Seeds: Round, compressed, black and shining.



Cleome viscosa L.

Common Name : Tick weed

Family : Capparidaceae

Habit: An erect, simple or sparsely branched, unarmed

annual herb.

Stem: Up to 1.5 m tall with a strong, penetrating and

unpleasant odour; stems grooved, densely

clothed with glandular or simple hairs.

Leaves: Leaves 3-5 foliate, densely glandular-pubescent

when young, petioles of the lower leaves 2.5-5 cm long, those of the upper leaves 0.4-3.8 cm; leaflets elliptic-oblong or obovate, 2-4.3 cm long and 0.8-2.5 cm wide, base cuneate to attenuate, apex acute

or obtuse.

Flowers: Flowers various shades of yellow or white to

pinkish or purple, 1.3 cm long, borne in the axils of reduced leaf-like bracts in lax corymbose

racemes.

Fruit: A slender, erect, glandular pubescent cylindrical

capsule, 5-12 cm long.

Seeds: About 1 mm in diameter, granular, black or dark

brown.



Coix lacryma-jobi L.

Common Name : Job's tears

Family : Poaceae

Habit: A stout, much-branched annual grass.

Stem: Culms 0.9-1.5 m tall, spreading below, rooting at

the lower nodes, internodes smooth, polished.

Leaves: 10-50 cm long and 1.5-5 cm wide, narrowed from

a broad cordate base to an acuminate tip, smooth on both surfaces, margins spinulosely serrate; midrib stout; sheaths long, smooth; ligule a very

narrow membrane.

Flowers: Borne in 2.5-6.3 cm long racemes, nodding or

drooping from long peduncles; male racemes 1.5-4 cm long, erect, spikelets mostly paired; female racemes enclosed within a beadlike auricle, which is white to green or bluish, globose, 0.6-1.2

cm long, hard.

Fruit: Utricle, oblong-cylindric, truncate at apex,

rounded at base.

Seeds: Subcylinderic, truncate at apex, reddish brown.



Commelina diffusa L.

Common Name : Climbing dayflower

Family : Commelinaceae

Habit: A creeping herb.

Stem: Rooting at the nodes.

Leaves: Sessile, ovate or lanceolate, entire, acuminate,

base sub cordate, chartaceous.

Flowers: Blue, 1-3 in cymes; spathes complicate.

Fruit: Broadly oblong acuminate.

Seeds: Tuberculate, reticulate, brown.



Convolvulus arvensis L.

Common Name : Field bindweed Family : Convolvulaceae

Habit: A herbaceous perennial growing from a very

deep root system. Shoots develop from adventitious buds on the deep root system at

almost any depth down to 1 m.

Stem: Slender, to 1.5 m long, twining anticlockwise,

glabrous or finely pubescent.

Leaves: Alternate, petiolate, variable in shape, lanceolate

or ovate to narrow-oblong, 1.2-5.0 cm long, acute at the apex, entire but often hastate-sagittate at the base, glabrous or pubescent with scattered

crisped hairs.

Flowers: White or pink, axillary, solitary, peduncles, 2.5-5

cm long, slender with a pair of small linear bracts at the apex from which the pedicels arise; pedicels

3-25 mm long.

Fruit: Capsules 6-8 mm in diameter, globose, glabrous.

Seeds: Subtrigonous, dark reddish-brown, glabrous or

puberulous.



Corchorus trilocularis Auct.

Common Name : Cotton weed

Family : Tiliaceae

Habit: An erect or suberect, annual herb, 30-60 cm tall.

Stem: Stem and branches glabrous.

Leaves: 3-4 costate, oblong-lanceolate or linear-lanceolate

or somewhat elliptic-obovate, 1.5-9 cm long, 0.6-2.2 cm broad, crenate-serrate, basal serratures prolonged into filiform spreading appendages or

not, acute.

Flowers: Cyme 1-4 flowered, antiphyllous, short

peduncled. Flowers yellow, 1 cm across,

subsessile.

Fruit: Capsules 1-3 together, erect, cylindrical, 1.5-4 cm

long, 2 mm in diameter, not ribbed, glabrous, terminated by 3 spreading bifid tips, 3-loculed,

locules aseptate.

Seeds: Angular, obliquely truncate at both ends, black.



Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.

Common Name : Bermuda grass

Family : Poaceae

Habit: Perennial grass.

Stem: The rhizomes are mainly in the top 10 cm of the

soil. They spread horizontally for several meters, with nodes at approximately 10 cm intervals, each with 2-3 scale leaves and a single axillary bud. In dense stands, shoots developing from buds on rhizomes or runners tend to be erect and quite short, up to 25 cm high, but develop into

prostrate runners under less dense conditions.

Leaves: Leaf blades are usually dull grey-green, flat, up

to 15 cm long and 3-5 mm wide, tapering to an abrupt point, finely parallel-ribbed on both surfaces, without a conspicuous midrib. Ligule is very short but with a conspicuous fringe of white

hairs.

Flowers: The inflorescence is supported on a culm up to 25

cm high and consists of a single whorl of 3-7 narrow racemes, each 3-8 cm long. Spikelets are 2-2.5 mm long, in two rows, closely appressed to

the rachis.



Cyperus difformis L.

Common Name : Variable flatsedge

Family : Cyperaceae

Habit: An annual sedge, sometimes behaving as a

perennial, varies in height from 6-80 cm.

Stem: Smooth, triangular, slightly winged and 0.7-3.0

mm thick. The roots are numerous, fibrous and

reddish.

Leaves: Smooth, (or slightly scabrid on the midrib and

margin), flat, linear, 5-25 cm long or often twothirds of the plant height, 2-6 mm wide, sometimes reduced to sheaths. Sheaths are tubular, united, green to reddish-brown and

without leaf blades at the base.

Flowers: Inflorescence consists of dense, globose,

umbellate heads, simple or compound, 5-15 mm in diameter, with 10-60 stellately spreading

spikelets.

Fruits: Nutlets, 0.6-0.8 mm long and 0.3-0.4 mm wide,

triangular, obovate-elliptic, yellowish-brown or

pale-brown, minutely papillose.



Cyperus iria L.

Common Name : Ricefield flatsedge

Family : Cyperaceae

Habit: An annual sedge, sometimes behaving as a

perennial. 8 to 60 cm high.

Stem: The culms are tufted, triangular, glabrous, green

and 0.6-3.0 mm thick. The roots are numerous,

short and yellowish-red.

Leaves: Linear-lanceolate, usually all shorter than the

culm, 1-8 mm wide, flat, and scabrid on the margin and major ribs; leaf sheaths are green to reddish-brown, membraneous and envelope the

culm at the base.

Flowers: Inflorescence is simple or compound, usually

open, 1-20 cm long and 1-20 cm wide, with groups of spikes which are either sessile or on 0.5-15.0 cm long peduncles (rays). Spikelets are erect-spreading, crowded, 6-24-flowered, 2-13 mm long, 1.5-2.0 mm wide, golden to yellowish-

green.

Fruits: Nutlet, 1.0-1.5 mm long, 0.6-0.7 mm wide,

obovate, triangular in cross section, dark-brown

to almost black; the surface is almost smooth.



Cyperus rotundus L.

Common Name : Purple nutsedge

Family : Cyperaceae

Habit: A perennial sedge.

Stem: Hard, fragrant, globose-ovoid tubers, up to 1.2

cm long and 0.3-0.7 cm in diameter; culms solitary or few together, sparsely tufted, erect,

10-75 cm tall, 3-angled at top.

Leaves: Narrowly linear, shorter or longer than stem,

0.4-0.8 cm wide, dark green above, pale beneath.

Flowers: Inflorescence a simple or compound umbel, rays

2-8, each up to 7.5 cm long, bearing short spikes

of 3-10 spreading, red-brown spikelets.

Fruits: Nuts oblong to ovate-oblong, 3-sided, 1.3-1.5

mm long and 0.5-0.7 mm wide, maturing brown.



Datura metel L.

Common Name : Thorn apple Family : Solanaceae

Habit: An erect, soft-stemmed shrub usually less than

1 m tall.

Stem: Branches somewhat zig-zag, almost glabrous,

green or reddish-tinged to almost black.

Leaves: Large, acrid-smelling when crushed,

triangular-ovate in outline, irregularly toothed or lobed, 7.5-15 cm long and 3.2-7.5 cm wide, largest leaves usually towards the ends of

shoots, apex acute or acuminate.

Flowers: Erect, solitary in leaf axils, tubular to funnel-

shaped; white to violet or purple on the outside

and white within.

Fruits: A globose capsule, usually covered with stout

tubercles or prickles, borne on a short, thick drooping peduncle; capsule 4-valved or

irregularly dehiscent near the apex.

Seeds: Yellowish-brown, flat.



Digera arvensis Forssk.

Common Name : False amaranth

Family : Amaranthaceae

Habit: An annual herb, 30-60 cm high.

Stem: With spreading branches.

Leaves: Variable, 2-7.5 cm long and 1.3-4.5 cm wide,

ovate or elliptic, acute or rounded at the apex,

sometimes with reddish margins, glabrous.

Flowers: Flowers pink, borne in threes in lax, axillary,

pedunculate spikes, 2.5-12.5 cm long.

Fruits: Globose, approximately 0.3 cm in diameter.

Seeds: Yellowish-brown.



Echinochloa colona (L.) Link.

Common Name : Jungle rice

Family : Poaceae

Habit: An annual grass, 1m or taller.

Stem: Culms stout, erect to decumbent, often

branching from the base.

Leaves: Sheath glabrous, ligule absent or occasionally

represented by a rim of very short hairs, leaf blades glabrous, elongate, 5-15 mm wide, light

green.

Flowers: Panicle erect or nodding, green or purple-

tinged, 10-20 cm long. Racemes numerous, 2-4 cm long, spreading, ascending, sometimes

branched.

Fruits: Caryopsis ovate, obtuse, usually 2.5-3.5 mm

long. Seed white to hyaline with longitudinal

ridges on the convex surface.



Echinochloa crusgalli (L.) Beauv.

Common Name : Barnyard grass

Family : Poaceae

Habit: Robust, tufted annual grass, erect or at the base

decumbent and rooting at the nodes, 20-150 cm

ta11.

Stem: Culms cylindrical, glabrous, filled with white

spongy pith.

Leaves: Leaf sheaths glabrous or the margin or the

exposed part of it fimbriate, 9-13 cm long. Blades merging into the sheath, linear, with a broad, rounded base and acute top; roughmargined, glabrous or at the base with a few long hairs, smooth or the upper surface

minutely bristly.

Flowers: Inflorescence an apical panicle of 5-40 spike-

like racemes, all turned to one side, with shortly ascending branches, the crowded spikelets at one side only, initially erect, later

often bent down, 5-21 cm long.

Fruits: Caryopsis ovoid to obovoid, compressed, 1.5-2

mmlong.



Echinochloa glabrescens Munro. ex Hook. f.

Common Name : None

Family : Poaceae

Habit: An erect, closely tufted, annual grass, 50-100

cm high.

Stem: Culms erect or slightly decumbent at the base.

Leaves: Sheaths tightly clasping the stem, leaf blades

strap-like, 10-20 cm long, 5-8 cm wide, with a

long, thin apex.

Flowers: Inflorescence a closely branched panicle, 10-20

cmlong.

Fruits: Spikelets numerous, with or without awns (1-3

mmlong, if present).



Eclipta alba (L.) Hassk.

Common Name : False daisy Family : Asteraceae

Habit: A prostrate, ascending or erect, rough-hairy

annual herb, up to 90 cm tall.

Stem: Much-branched, slender, reddish, covered with

short, stiff hairs, rooting at the lower nodes.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, rough, dull green, ovate to

oblong-lanceolate, 2-10 cm long, 1-3 cm wide, apex acute or blunt, base attenuate, margin entire or slightly serrate, pubescent, mostly sessile, the

lower leaves sometimes short-petioled.

Flowers: Flower heads up to 1 cm in diameter, a cluster of

sessile white flowers, in upper axils or terminal, solitary or two heads together. Ray flowers

white.

Fruits: Achenes light-brown to black, laterally-flattened,

wedge-shaped, 2-3 mm long, 0.9 mm wide. Apex with short, usually white hairs that are easily broken off but two hornlike projections often remain, pappus absent. The rest of the achene is glabrous and covered with many small warts.



Eichhornia crassipes (Mart.) Solms.

Common Name : Water hyacinth Family : Pontederiaceae

Habit: A free-floating or partly rooting perennial

aquatic herb.

Stem: With numerous, long, fibrous roots, short leafy.

Leaves: In rosettes, spoon or paddle-shaped, apex

rounded, 5-20 cm wide; petioles turbinately swollen and spongy, enabling the plant to float.

Flowers: Mauve, lilac or blue, funnel-shaped, 2.5-3.8 cm

long.

Fruits: Capsule, many-seeded.



Eriocaulon sieboldianum Siebold & Zucc. ex Steud.

Common Name : None

Family : Eriocaulaceae

Habit: A small, tufted, annual herb, 10-15 cm tall.

Stem: Angular, ribbed, thickened above the node,

more or less densely hairy.

Leaves: 3-6 x 0.1 cm, linear, glabrous.

Flowers: Peduncles many; heads white, globose.

Seeds: Oblong-globose, finely, transversely striate.



Euphorbia geniculata Orteg.

Common Name : Wild poinsettia Family : Euphorbiaceae

Habit: Erect, annual herb, up to 1.2 m tall.

Stem: Fistular, ribbed, branched in the upper part,

glabrous or thinly hairy towards the apex,

greenish or purplish in appearance.

Leaves: Alternate below, opposite above, broadly

ovate, elliptic, obovate, or panduriform, rarely linear, blades 4-12 cm long, 0.3-7 cm wide, glabrous or pilose, margins entire to coarsely serrate, apex acute, short-acuminate, or short-

cuspidate, base rounded to cuneate.

Flowers: Cyathia in dense terminal cymes; involucre 2-

2.5 mm high, glabrous.

Fruits: Capsules subglobose, 3-4 mm long, glabrous.

Seeds: Seeds dark brownish gray to black, sometimes

mottled, truncate-ovoid, angled, 2-2.5 mm

long, coarsely tuberculate, ecarunculate.



Euphorbia indica Lam.

Common Name : None

Family : Euphorbiaceae

Habit: Annual herb, up to 60 cm tall.

Stem: Decumbent-ascending, suberect or erect,

sparingly puberulous or pubescent.

Leaves: Elliptic-oblong, 1-3 x 0.5-1.5 cm, obtuse,

obliquely rounded at the base, serrulate except at the base on the inner margin, subtriplinerved, green above, paler beneath.

Flowers: Cyathia aggregated together into loose

clusters, terminating short axillary shoots; cyathial glands purplish, with white or pale

pink orbicular petaloid appendages.

Fruits: Trigonous, 1.5 x 2 mm, smooth, sparingly

pubescent or glabrous.

Seeds: 1 x 0.8 mm, ovoid, roundly-quadrangular,

shallowly rugulose to almost smooth, grey,

ecarunculate.



Fimbristylis miliacea (L.) Vahl.

Common Name : Grass-like fimbry

Family : Cyperaceae

Habit: A tufted, erect sedge that can grow as an annual

or perennial.

Stem: Culms slender, 40-60 cm tall, four or five

angled and often somewhat flattened.

Leaves: 1.5-2.5 mm wide, up to 40 cm long, basal leaves

half as long as culm, linear, threadlike and stiff,

two-ranked, with sheaths.

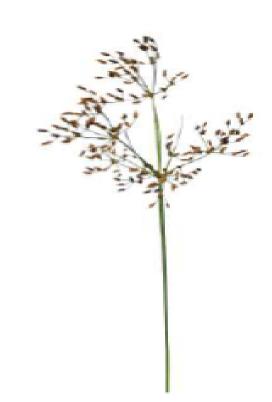
Flowers: Inflorescence a rather lax and diffuse

compound umbel, 6-10 cm long, spikelets globose or ovate, 2.5-4 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, round or acute at apex, reddish brown.

Fruits: Achenes are obovoid, trigonous, biconvex,

apiculate; 0.6 to 1 mm long, 0.75 mm wide and pale ivory to brown and are covered with a

network of very fine crosswise lines.



Lagascea mollis Cav.

Common Name : Silk leaf

Family : Asteraceae

Habit: An annual herb, 50-100 cm tall.

Stem: Sometimes purplish, with stipitate glandular

hairs on young parts.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, ovate, with toothed margin,

3-5 cm long; silky beneath.

Flowers: Tiny white-cream colored flowers occur in a

composite head 2-3 cm across. The heads are

surrounded by silky leaves.

Fruits: Achenes brown or black, 3 mm long,

setuliferous near apex; pappus a minute

crown, pubescent.

Seeds: Subcylinderic, truncate at apex, reddish

brown.



Lantana camara L.

Common Name : Wild sage

Family : Verbenaceae

Habit: A perennial shrub, 2-5 m tall.

Stem: Woody, 4-angled, often bearing recurved prickles.

Leaves: Serrated leaves are ovate to ovate-lanceolate (up to

10 cm long and 7.5 cm wide) and usually light

colored.

Flowers: Yellow and pink, later turning orange then red and

sometimes blue or purple.

Fruits: Black, fleshy drupes, borne in clusters, 3-6 mm in

diameter and contain 1-2 seeds.



Lathyrus sativus L.

Common Name : Grass pea Family : Fabaceae

Habit: A much-branched, straggling or climbing,

herbaceous annual; 25-60 cm long.

Stem: Quadrangular with winged margins. Stipules

are prominent, narrowly triangular to ovate

with a basal appendage.

Leaves: Pinnate leaves are opposite, consisting of one or

two pairs of linear-lanceolate leaflets, $5-7.5 \times 1$ cm, and a simple or much-branched tendril. Leaflets are entire, sessile, cuneate at the base

and acuminate at the top.

Flowers: Axillary, solitary, about 1.5 cm long, and may be

bright blue, reddish purple, red, pink, or white.

Fruits: Pods are oblong, flat, slightly bulging over the

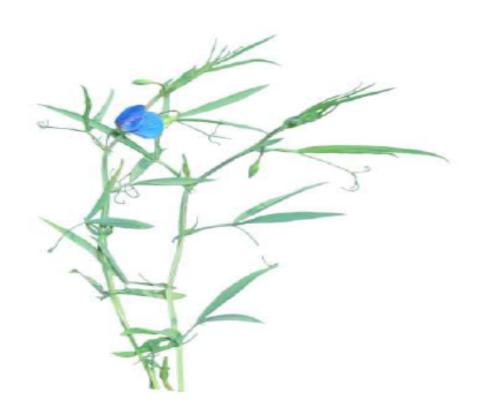
seeds, about 2.5-4.5 cm in length, 0.6-1.0 cm in width and slightly curved; dorsal part of the pod is 2-winged, shortly beaked and contains 3-5

small seeds.

Seeds: 4-7 mm in diameter, angled and wedge-shaped;

white, brownish-grey or yellow, although

spotted or mottled forms also exist.



Mimosa pudica L.

Common Name : Sensitive plant

Family : Fabaceae

Habit: A low-growing, much-branched, prickly, sprawling

shrub. It grows 15-100 cm tall and is erect or more

generally has a trailing growth habit.

Stem: Woody at the base, stiff, cylindrical, reddish-brown or

purple, pubescent and bear scattered prickles along the internodes. The prickles are 3-4 mm long, compressed,

slightly curved, hard and very sharp.

Leaves: Dark green, bipinnate and hairy. Leaflets 12-50, each 6-

12 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, oblong-linear and pointed, glabrous above but with a hairy margin and lower surface. Leaflets and leaves fold up rapidly when

touched and also close at night.

Flowers: Flowers bright purplish-pink; occur in globular or

ovoid heads about 9 mm in diameter.

Fruits: Fruits are borne in clusters in the leaf axils. Each fruit is

an oblong, flattened, recurved pod about 8-20 mm long and 2-6 mm wide containing 1-5 seeds. The pod is pointed at the apex, glabrous, edged with bristles and breaks into one-seeded segments which fall away from

unbroken marginal sutures when mature.

Seeds: Light-brown, flattened, 2.5-3 mm in diameter and with

a finely granular surface.



Parthenium hysterophorus L.

Common Name : Congress grass

Family : Asteraceae

Habit: A short-lived annual herb with an extensive root system and an erect shoot; up to 2 m high.

Stem: Erect main stem, upper half of the main stem becomes highly-branched at flowering; stems appear to be striped due to longitudinal grooves or ribs and they become woody with

age.

Leaves: Pale green, deeply lobed and covered with fine soft hairs.

Flowers: Creamy-white flowers occur at the tips of the stems. Clusters of male and female florets are grouped as five-lobed flowers on the terminal branches of the flower stem and measure 4–6 mm in diameter.

Fruits: Achene small (1-2 mm across), flattened, triangular and dark brown-black with two thin, white, spoon-shaped appendages.



Phalaris minor Retz.

Common Name : Little seed canary grass

Family : Poaceae

Habit: A tufted annual bunchgrass, up to 1.8 metres in

height.

Stem: Erect or decumbent, caespitose.

Leaves: Leaves long, linear, acuminate. Ligule is an

oblong hyaline membrane, about 2-5 mm long, often truncate and/or fringed; auricles absent,

sheath smooth.

Flowers: Panicle more or less protruding or entirely

protruding from the uppermost swollen leaf sheath, ovate to oblong, 5-8 cm long, green. Sikelets green, broadly lanceolate on short pedicels, shining, 4-6 mm long, strongly

laterally compressed.



Phyllanthus niruri L.

Common Name : Stonebreaker

Family : Euphorbiaceae

Habit: A small, erect, annual herb that grows up to

30-40 cm in height.

Stem: Quite glabrous, stem often branched at the

base, leaf bearing branchlets slender, spreading. The bark is smooth and light green.

Leaves: Numerous, subsessile, distichous leaves.

Flowers: Small, white to light yellowish. Male flowers in

axillary, females in solitary.

Fruits: Capsules depressed-globose, smooth scarcely -

lobed.

Seeds: Seeds trigonous, rounded.



Portulaca oleracea L.

Common Name : Common purslane

Family : Portulacaceae

Habit: An annual glabrous herb.

Stem: Prostrate, succulent; trichomes at nodes.

Leaves: Obovate or spatulate, flattened, 4-28 × 2-13

mm, apex round to retuse or nearly truncate;

involucrelike leaves 1-4.

Flowers: 3-10 mm diameter; yellow.

Fruits: Capsules ovoid, 4-9 mm diameter.

Seeds: Black or dark brown, orbiculate or elongate,

flattened, 0.6-1.1 mm; surface cells sooth, granular, or stellate, with rounded tubercles.



Saccharum spontaneum L.

Common Name : Wild sugarcane

Family : Poaceae

Habit: Strong perennial.

Culm: 1-2 m tall, tufted; solid above, fistular below,

polished, silky below panicles and minutely

silky below upper leaf-insertions.

Leaves: Erect, glaucous, midrib white, margins scabrid,

often villous above base, sheath longer than

internode.

Flowers: Panicle conical-oblong, with 3-15 cm long

fragile racemes, joints and pedicels; branches ascending, usually reddish or purplish,

primary rachis silky with long, white hairs.

Fruits: Caryopsis 2 mm long, oblong.



Solanum viarum Dunal.

Common Name : Tropical soda apple

Family : Solanaceae

Habit: Bushy, prickly herbaceous perennial.

Stem: Up to 2 m tall, more commonly 1 m tall; stems

armed with broad-based, straight or downward-pointing prickles and clothed in a mixture of stellate and simple glandular or

non-glandular hairs.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, clearly petioled, prickly;

blades oval-triangular, nearly as broad as long, to 20 cm long and 15 cm wide, angular-lobed; surfaces dense with fine soft hairs giving

blades a velvety sheen; veins prickly.

Flowers: White, in small terminal clusters.

Fruits: A globose berry, 2-3 cm wide, green with dark

veining, like a tiny watermelon, when

immature, dull medium yellow when ripe.

Seeds: Flattened, reddish brown.



Solanum xanthocarpum Schrad. & Wendl

Common Name : Yellow berried nightshade

Family : Solanaceae

Habit: Prostrate, diffuse prickly herb.

Stem: Woody at the base, much branched, armed

with straight, compressed, yellow prickles, glabrous except stellate hairy young plants.

Leaves: 30-80 x 25-50 mm, elliptic-oblong, sinuate to

deeply lobed, dark-green above; lobes unequal, obtuse or acute, often toothed or

lobulate.

Flowers: Bluish purple.

Fruits: Globose, green with white stripes, turn yellow

when ripe.

Seeds: Circular, smooth.



Sorghum halapense (L.) Pers.

Common Name : Johnson grass

Family : Poaceae

Habit: A perennial from rhizomes that may reach 6.5 feet

in height.

Stem: Round to somewhat flattened, usually without

hairs but sometimes hairs may be present along the margins. Sheaths may be green to maroon,

especially near the base of the plant.

Leaves: Rolled in the shoot, without auricles, 6 to 20

inches long by 10 to 30 mm wide, with a prominent white midvein. Leaf blades are usually without hairs (glabrous) on both surfaces, however some hairs may be present at the base of the leaf blade. The ligules are 3 to 4 mm long,

membranous, and often toothed at the top.

Flowers: Seed head a large, open panicle, often with a

purplish tint.

Fruits: Spikelets 4.3-5.5 mm long, 1.5-2.0 mm wide.

Elliptical in outline with sharply pointed apex; plano-convex. Mahogany coloured, shading to a reddish-brown or yellow. Smooth and glossy.

Seeds: Oval, 3 to 5 mm in length, and dark red to black at

maturity.



Sphenoclea zeylanica Gaertn.

Common Name : Chickenspike

Family : Sphenocleaceae

Habit: An erect annual herb.

Stem: 7 - 150 cm tall, smooth and fleshy, hollow,

much branched and with white, spongy

(aerenchymatous) tissues at base.

Leaves: Simple and spirally arranged, light green;

blades oblong to lance-shaped, narrowed at the

tip, 10 cm long, borne on short stalks.

Flowers: Inflorescence green, cylindrical, 7.5 cm long

dense terminal spike; flowers densely

crowded, white to greenish, sessile.

Fruits: A flat, 4-5 mm diameter globular capsule.

Seeds: Yellowish brown, 0.5 mm long.



Striga asiatica (L.) Kuntze.

Common Name : Witch weed.

Family : Orobanchaceae

Habit: An annual obligate hemiparasite, 15-20 cm tall.

Stem: Green, square in cross section, 1-2.5 mm in

diameter. Under ground stems are round with scale like leaves and white, but turn blue when exposed to air. The roots are succulent, round, without root hairs, and found attached to the

host root system.

Leaves: Opposite, narrow; each pair born at right angle

to the preceding one.

Flowers: Variously colored, white, purple, pink or red;

born in opposite pairs or alternately in terminal

leafy inflorescence.

Fruits: Loculicidal capsule, black, ellipsoid, 0.4-2 mm,

two valved.

Seeds: Elliptic, ovate, oblong, ocassionally D-shaped,

triangular, rhombic or irregular; dust like, 0.2 - 0.6 mm long, 0.1 - 0.3 mm wide and thick. Orange to golden brown or light to dark brown

or gray to blackish.



Tridax procumbens L.

Common Name : Coatbuttons

Family : Asteraceae

Habit: Ahispid, procumbentherb.

Stem: Up to 60 cm tall; base woody, sometimes

rooting at the nodes.

Leaves: Ovate, 2-7 cm long and 1-4 cm wide, apex acute

or acuminate, base cuneate, margins serrate to

coarsely dentate or trilobed.

Flowers: Flowers borne in small, solitary, terminal

heads; peduncles 10-20 cm long; ray florets

strap-shaped, white; disc florets yellow.

Fruits: Achenes black, turbinate, 2-2.5 mm long with

feathery pappus.



Xanthium strumarium L.

Common Name : Common cocklebur

Family : Asteraceae

Habit: Annual herb.

Stem: Stout and hairy, much branched, up to 1.5 m

tall.

Leaves: Leaves broadly triangular ovate or

suborbicular, scarbid or hispid on both surfaces, apex acute, often 3-5 lobed, irregularly serrate, base some what cordate or

shortly cuneate; petioles 2.5-7.5 cm long.

Flowers: Flower heads monoecious, numerous, white or

green, in terminal and axillary racemes; male heads in upper axils, globose; female heads in the lower axils, ovoid, covered with hooked

bristles, ending in 2 strong hooked beaks.

Fruits: Achenes 1.3 cm long, obovoid, compressed,

enclosed in a hardened, spinescent involucre.



Commelina benghalensis L.

The first leaf appears unfolding, broadly oval or ovoid or broadly elliptic in shape. The subsequent leaves emerge form the sheath of the previous leaf and are whorled. The lamina is light to dark green, broadly ovate with a blunt apex.













