

Commonly Questioned Weeds in Quay County

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American Basketflower

Description:

- Annual, erect plant, up to 6 ft tall
- Flowers are 4 inches in diameter with pink petals and a cream colored center looks somewhat like a thistle
- No prickly characteristics like thistles
- Flowers May - August
- Leaves are rough 4 inch long lanced shaped
- The common name comes from the underside of the inflorescence which looks like a basket weave pattern



Habitat:

- Sandy to loamy-clay soil, roadsides, disturbed areas, overgrazed pastures
- Highly cultivated in the Southwest and Central US

Livestock/wildlife

- Very little value for either



Blue flax

Description:

- Perennial that is 1- 2 ½ ft tall
- One or more unbranched stems from base
- Stems are somewhat erect or they can sprawl
- Stems are gray-green and hairless
- dense pseudo-whorls of small leaves that are from ¼ - 1 ½ in long. They are linear-oblong, gray-green, smooth and hairless
- About 10 flowers per stem, that are ¾-1 in across, 5 petals, and light to medium blue
- Globoid seed capsule that contains 10 seeds
- Taproot

Habitat:

- Can grow in most soils. Found mainly along roadsides, disturbed area, and gravelly areas.

Livestock/Wildlife:

- Have fair livestock and wildlife use during spring and winter for food and cover



Buffalo Bur

Description:

- Up to 2 ft in height
- Very dense, stiff, and sharp yellowish spines on the entire plant
- Leaves are oblong and 2-3 inches long with deep rounded lobes
- Bright yellow flowers in the summer
- In the fall, berries up to 3/8 in in diameter are enclosed and filled with black, wrinkled, flat pitted seeds
- When dry, the main stem breaks and they can roll like tumbleweeds

Habitat:

- Disturbed, dry, exposed soil. Very drought resistant.

Treatment:

- Healthy plant community
- Mechanical/hand removal effective
- Herbicides are effective



Common purslane, *Portulaca*

Description:

- Summer annual broadleaf plant
- Prostrate to spreading, up to 3-3 ½ ft in length, many succulent branches, coming from the base.
- Leaves are egg to spatula shaped, succulent, stalkless and 1/5 - 1 1/5 inches long. Edges can be tinged red. Leaves are either opposite one another or alternate along stem
- Flowers are single or clusters of 2-5, found at stem tips, small, yellow, and usually have five petals
- Fruits consist of almost round to egg-shaped capsules, usually about 1/6 - 1/3 inch long that open around the middle to release many seeds

Habitat:

- Orchards, vineyards, crop fields, landscaped areas, gardens, roadsides and other disturbed sites

Livestock/wildlife:

- Is eaten by wildlife and some livestock. Chickens seem to favor it. It can also be used for human consumption.



Curlycup Gumweed

Description:

- 1-5 ft height
- Stout erect stem with several branches
- Yellow daisy-like flower heads
- Flowers July - August
- Has resinous sap with curling bracts that occur on the flowering head
- Deep tap root - drought tolerant
- Leaves are alternate, oblong, and toothed with gummy resin

Habitat:

- Disturbed areas - roadsides, ditches, open fields
- Adapted to most soils

Livestock/wildlife:

- Not palatable to livestock due to tannins and resins
- Plains tribes used this plant for various medicinal purposes



Curly dock

Description:

- Erect plant that is 2-5 ft tall with stout stems
- Leaves are hairless, basal rosettes, that are lance shaped
- Flowers are visible year-round. The flowering stem is loosely branched and green, non-showy flowers cluster along it's upper portion in a whorl
- Fruit are covered with a papery, three-winged membrane with veins. The one-seed fruit is triangular in cross-section, smooth, glossy and reddish brown

Habitat:

- Ditches, roadsides, wetlands, pastures, crop fields, orchards, disturbed moist places

Toxicity:

- Plants may be poisonous to livestock when ingested in quantity



Dayflower

Description:

- Also known as “widow’s tears” because when the spathe of the plant is squeezed a drop of liquid is produced
- height of 6-18 inches
- Bending to spreading outwards up to 3 ft
- Flowers May to October
- Flowers have 2 larger blue petals, 1 small colorless petal and 3 yellow stamens
- Leaves are linear and lance shaped

Habitat:

- This plant likes some shade and can be found in fields and/or pastures
- Prefers dry and sandy soils

Livestock/wildlife:

- Important food for white-tailed deer
- Seeds are eaten by quail and dove
- Livestock will also eat this plant



Feather dalea

Description:

- Small shrub
- Under 3 ft tall
- Gray-brown stems, mostly hairless, crooked and widely branched
- Leaves are pinnately compound, very short, 5 to 10 pairs of thick leaflets per leaf that fold up along the edges, and hairless
- Purple flowers that form loose clusters of 2-10 flowers on short stalks, the bracts of each flower has silky hair on the outsides
- Fruit is a flat hairy pod containing 1-2 seeds

Habitat:

- Found on dry hillsides at altitudes of 2,000-6,500 ft. Prefers gravelly and rocky soil

Livestock/Wildlife:

- Little forage value for livestock, but is valuable for deer



Hog potato

Description:

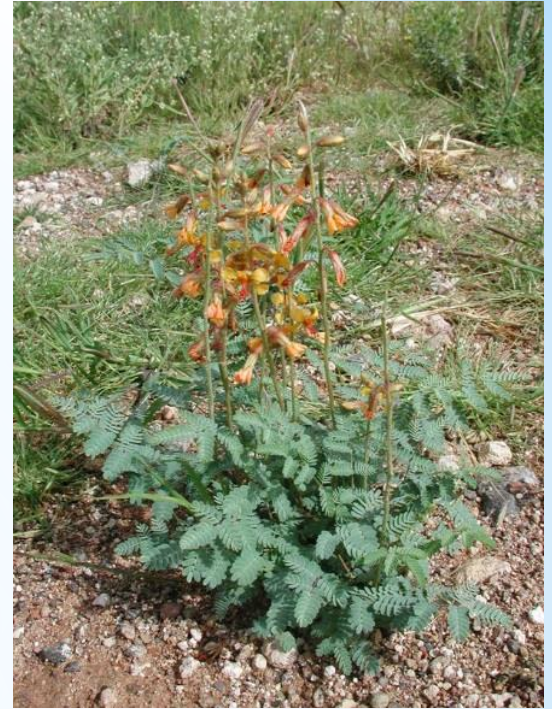
- Confused with small mesquite plants
- Erect perennial herb
- Up to 10 inches tall
- Branches are slender and growing out from base of plant
- The foliage is compound leaves with primary and secondary leaflets
- Flowers are orange-red with spreading petals
- Flowering from April - June
- Fruit is glandular, curved and short-stalked
- Creeping underground horizontal roots with tubers

Habitat:

- Sandy, dry soils on the plain, range, or roadsides

Livestock/wildlife:

- Top of plant can be toxic to livestock but rarely grazed
- Underground tubers eaten by hogs



Rayless Goldenrod - Jimmyweed

Description:

- Low-growing half-shrub
- Erect stems and woody crown
- Flowers are yellow, small, bunches at tip of stems
- 2-4 ft height

Habitat:

- Dry rangelands, river valleys, drainages

Toxic Agent:

- Can poison all species of livestock
- Toxic agent is tremetone
- Toxic as green or dry (year round)
- Can pass through milk, and may show in young and not mother
- Humans have been poisoned by consuming milk from effected cattle
- Lethal dose 1.0 to 1.5 percent of animal's weight over 2-3 weeks



Rayless Goldenrod - Jimmyweed continued

Signs of poisoning:

- “Trembles” - muscular trembling very noticeable around the nose, hips, and shoulders. Especially after exercise.
- Stiffness and weakness in forelegs
- Later stages - animals will lie down and not be able to rise
- Other - Constipation, vomiting, fast and labored breathing, dribbling of urine

Treatment:

- Hand dig including crown
- Herbicides are effective



Snow on the Mountain

Description:

- Annual forb
- Single stem, milky sap
- Leaves are green, oblong
- Flowers are small cups, with white and green bracts that provide the coloring of the plant
- Seeds are 3 to a pod, related to poinsettia
- 2- 4 ft height

Habitat:

- Disturbed areas - ditches, roads, playas, waste areas

Toxic:

- Milky sap is poisonous and will cause inflammation of the skin, mouth, and throat. Plant can have effect dry or fresh.
- Rarely causes death

Treatment:

- Healthy plant community, poor competitor
- Mechanical removal effective for small infestations, but can regenerate from roots
- Herbicides are effective***



Spiderwort

Description:

- From 8 - 20 inches height
- Erect, branching stems
- Leaves are long and narrow
- Flowers have 3 blue-violet petals and only last for 1 day
- Flowers May to August

Habitat:

- Adapted to sandy or rocky soils of the plains and prairie

Livestock/Wildlife

- Both will graze this plant. Native Americans used the young shoots for food.



Spiny cocklebur

Description:

- Annual
- Stems are branched, with yellow spines at the base of the leaf
- Leaves are lanceolate, with the underside covered in dense white hairs, and one main vein
- Have both male and female flowers on the same plant
- Male flowers are small, green, and in clusters
- Female flowers are spiny with 2 flowers that harden into prickly burs with 2 seeds at maturity
- Up to 3 ft height

Habitat:

- Disturbed areas - ditches, roads, fields, pastures, riparian areas

Treatment:

- Mechanical removal effective if before burs develop
- DO NOT cut and leave the plants with immature burs, they can still develop into viable seed
- Herbicides are effective***



Ten-petal Blazing Star or “Stickleaf”

Description:

- Stems are 1-3 ft high and are erect and stout with whitish bark that peels off lower portions of stem
- Leaves are alternate, simple, lanceolate shape with “sticky” hairs
- Flowers are 3-6 inches in diameter with 10 petals and are white to creamy white
- Fruit is capsules that are cylindrical and dry with loose seeds within
- Very deep taproot
- Also called “sand lily”

Habitat:

- Dry, rocky hillsides, steep banks, roadsides, disturbed areas.

Toxicity:

- Plant does accumulate selenium so it can be mildly poisonous. Livestock rarely eat these plants, but birds will consume the seeds



Texas blueweed

Description:

- Perennial herb with distinctive blue-green foliage
- 16-28 inches in height
- Tough, horizontal, spreading root system that sprouts new plants - very aggressive
- Mechanical disturbance can spread fragmented plants
- Leaves are variable in size and shape but most are narrowly lance-shaped and wavy with rough hairs along the edges
- Flowers have a mass of at least 35 yellow-tipped red disc florets surrounded by a fringe of 10-18 curling yellow ray florets

Habitat:

- Rangeland, cropland, disturbed sites, and roadsides

Livestock/wildlife:

- Very little value



Threadleaf Groundsel

Description:

- Perennial
- Many-stemmed evergreen composite
- Stems and leaves are gray-green
- Leaves are thick and elongated
- Flowers are yellow
- 1-2 ft height

Habitat:

- Rocky, sandy, gravelly soil of dry upland prairies and roadsides

Toxic:

- Toxic to cattle, sheep, and horses and effects the liver
- Poisoning is rare under good range condition

Treatment:

- Healthy plant community, poor competitor
- Mechanical removal effective for small infestations
- Herbicides are effective, but rarely require treatment under good range conditions***



Toothed Spurge

Description:

- Annual forb- varies in amount from yr to yr
- Stem is hairy, upright, green to reddish
- Leaves are green, lanceolate with toothed margins, small reddish/purple spots
- Seeds are green 3 lobed that matures to purple, related to poinsettia
- Flower is small, cream/yellow bowl shaped
- 2-3 ft height

Habitat:

- Cropland, rangeland, pasture, roadsides

Toxic:

- Milky sap is poisonous and will blister skin, mouth, etc. Can cause blindness if eaten in large quantities or if in direct contact with eye

Treatment:

- Healthy plant community, poor competitor
- Herbicides are effective, but has shown resistance to glyphosate***



Yellow plainsman

Description:

- Plant is 8-36 inches tall
- Stems are erect, branched in upper 1/3, ribbed, arising singly from a taproot
- Leaves above are alternate and stalked, smooth, and numerous. Lower basal rosette leaves twice pinnately-divided, 2 ½ - 6 inches long, and woolly
- Flowers are involcral bracts of 6-14, 1/6 -1/4 inch long, bright yellow, with bell shaped throat
- Fruit are 4 angled about 1/6 in long, angles have hair, tipped with 18-20 translucent scales, with small seed
- Also called yellow woolly-white

Habitat:

- Dry prairies, plains, pastures, roadsides. More often in sandy soils



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