

# Weed Management

By Brian Tuck

Wasco County Extension Agent and  
Small Farm Newsletter Editor

As the weather begins to turn warmer and thoughts turn to spring so do weeds begin to grow. With the early spring, weeds are also taking advantage of this warmer weather and getting a jump on rest of the competition. Often, invasive weeds are better adapted to our environment than the cultivated crops that we produce, so good weed management is a must.

To help folks know what weeds they have there are a number of excellent resources available to help you identify weeds on your small farm. Several good resource publications include:

\***Weeds of the West.** This is an excellent resource book that provides very good photos of weeds in our area and information on how they grow. It can be ordered through any OSU Extension Office.

\***Northwest Weeds** by Ronald Taylor. This is a smaller version of Weeds of the West. Again a very good resource for small farmers.

\***Wetland Plants of Oregon and Washington**, by B. Jennifer Guard. A good plant identification resource for small farmers with wetlands or riparian areas.

\*For those with livestock, **The Field Guide to Plants Poisonous to Livestock: Western US** by Shirley A. Weathers is a good resource in identifying poisonous plants in your irrigated or dryland pasture.

\*OSU has a large number of individual Weed Publications including Russian Thistle, puncturevine and knapweed to name a few. Again, they can be ordered through any OSU Extension Office or on their web site at [eesc.orst.edu](http://eesc.orst.edu). The publications have excellent photos and information on control.

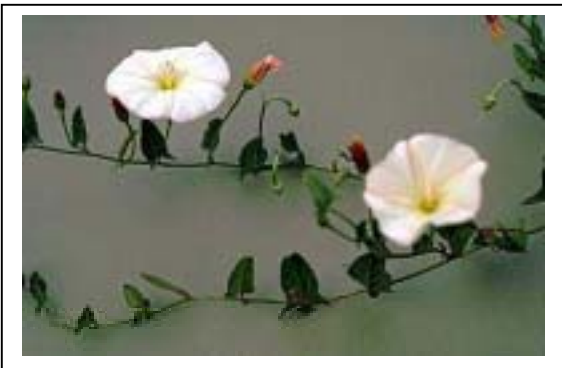
\*There is also a good web site at [tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html](http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html). This is an excellent site for additional information on invasive weeds. It provides good photos and control methods.

\*King County in Washington has a very good web site with a number of weed photos and information about weed control. Their site is [dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/weedpics.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/weedpics.htm)

Another important point that small farmers need to consider is how long seeds can last in the soil. The following is a list of common weeds and how long their seeds have been found to survive.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| * Brome Grass – 2-3 years                      | * Mustards – decades                   |
| * Annual Ryegrass – up to 9 years              | * Lambsquarters – up to 4 decades      |
| * Perennial Ryegrass – up to 3 years           | * Russian Thistle – 1-2 years          |
| * Annual Bluegrass – up to 5 years             | * Curly Dock – more than a decade      |
| * Wild Oats – 3-6 years or longer in deep soil | * Canada Thistle – more than 2 decades |
| * Jointed Goatgrass – 3 to 5 years             | * Field Bindweed – more than 50 years  |
| * Barnyardgrass – up to 13 years               | * Leafy Spurge – 3-4 years             |
| * Quackgrass – up to 4 years                   |  |

The need to have good weed management strategy in your fields is of critical importance. If you have any weed control questions regardless of whether you have pasture or a specialty crops, please contact your OSU or WSU Extension Office or your local weed control district



**Field Bindweed seeds survive more than 50 years**



**Canada Thistle seed is viable for more than 2 decades**

