

annual or biennial. The stem, smooth or with small scattered prickles, rises to a height of two to six feet, and bears a large, open panicle of flowers or heads. The flowers are small and yellow, and each plant bears, on an average, 688 heads, 12 flower seeds to each head, and 8,256 seeds to each plant. The leaves, which are oblong and without stock, are prickly along the wavy margins and along the midrib on the back.

The plant begins to bloom early in July, and produces a few blossoms each morning thereafter until killed by the frost.

In the fruiting stage the tufts of a dozen seeds which grow in one head spread out so as to form a white ball of down, like that of the dandelion, which enables it to be rapidly spread by the wind.

The seed appears as an impurity in clover, millet and heavier grass seed, and the plant is, doubtless, most frequently introduced by this means.

It is also a host for a fungus which attacks the cultivated lettuce, which occurs on the leaves, forming dead-looking brown spots which spread until the whole leaf becomes dead and brown.

The remedy is to repeatedly cut the plants when they are at a good height and first begin blossoming. One cutting at this time will destroy the plants growing, but the plants succeeding these must also be remembered.

Under no circumstances should the mature seed-bearing plants be plowed under, as that would only fill the soil with seeds buried at different depths to be brought under conditions favorable to germination at intervals of several years.

**MULLEN OR VELVET DOCK** (*Verbascum thapsus*). This well known weed is a biennial growing from three to six feet high and is very common in waste places, road sides and gravelly and sandy pastures. It has a long, deep tap root from which springs a tall densely woolly stem, bearing woolly leaves and terminating in a dense cluster of bright yellow flowers. This weed flowers from July to August and seeds from August to November. An average plant produces about 6,000 seeds which are frequently distributed as an impurity in grass and clover seed. It is easily destroyed if cut below the crown with a spud in the fall or better still in early spring when the young rosettes may be more easily destroyed.

Breaking up the sod and growing hoed crops will readily dispose of it.

**\*BLUE WEED, BISHOP'S CURSE, BLUE DEVIL, BLUE THISTLE** (*Echium vulgare*). A biennial weed commonly known as Bishop's Curse in the County of Glengarry, where, according to legend, it is supposed to have been first introduced into America. The story goes that early in the history of the settlement the Bishop of Glengarry went over to Rome to visit the Pope. There he saw this flower in the gardens, and brought it home. It escaped from cultivation, and degenerated into a weed.

Whether this story is true or not, the fact remains that its ravages are greater in Glengarry than in almost any place it has been introduced.

During the first year the portion above the ground is a rosette of leaves, and from the centre of this, the next year, bristly, hairy and erect stems arise, one to two and one-half feet high. The flowers are arranged in a spike, and are azure blue in color. It seeds in the fall, and the seeds are dispersed chiefly in winter, when they are blown over the snow. An average plant produces about 3,500 seeds.

In arable land this weed seldom gives any trouble, as it cannot stand cultivation, but in rough, permanent pastures it becomes a serious pest. A permanent pasture once infested can only be cleaned by breaking up the land, and, as this would be practically impossible in some of our limestone ridges where this plant seems to be well adapted to growing, its spreading should be prevented by spudding whenever it makes its appearance in a new place.

\* Specified in Seed Control Act.