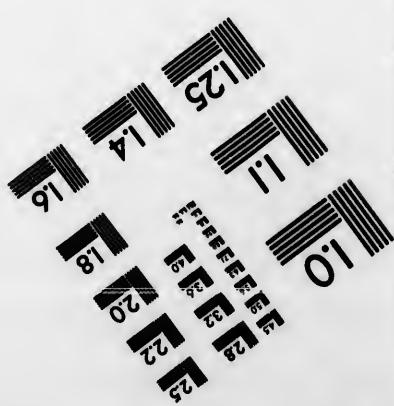
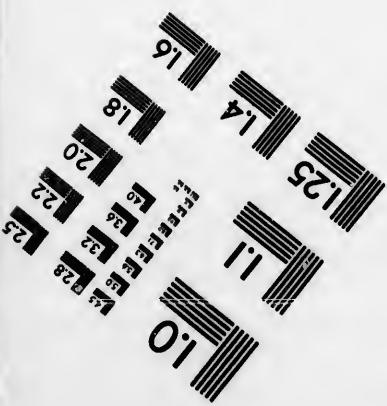
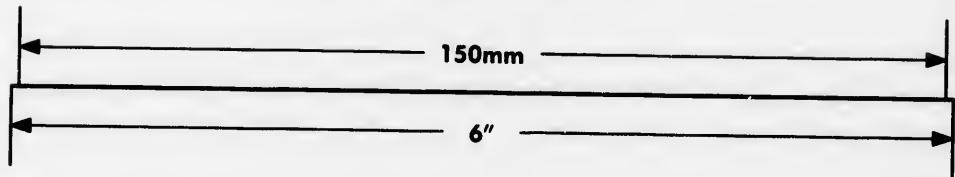
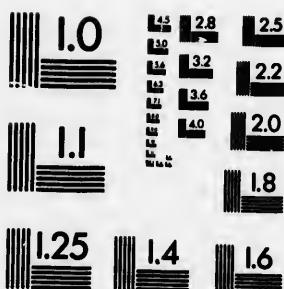
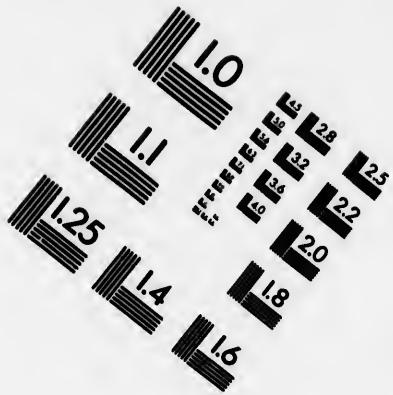
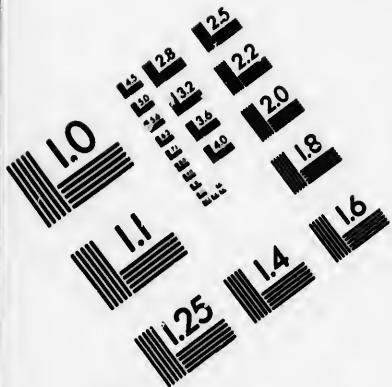


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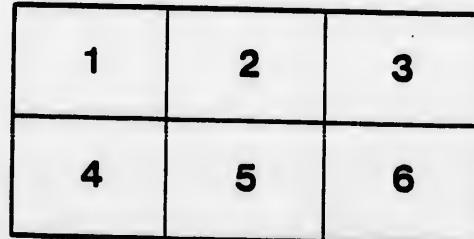
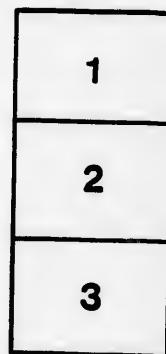
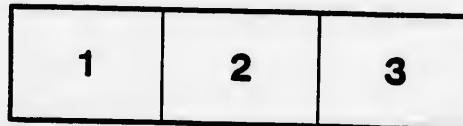
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# ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

## BULLETIN XCI.

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
Toronto, November 15, 1893.

### WEEDS OF ONTARIO.

By J. H. PANTON, M.A., F.G.S., PROFESSOR OF NATURAL HISTORY AND GEOLOGY.

For some time past the writer has been collecting information regarding the weeds of Ontario with special reference to their distribution in the province. Having received replies from over one thousand persons to whom circulars were sent through the medium of the Bureau of Industries asking for the names of the ten worst weeds in the district he is able to give in this bulletin a summary of the information received.

Weeds of late years have received considerable attention not only from students of botany but also from practical agriculturists, a fact which indicates that farmers are advancing and that they are departing from careless methods of cultivation, and adopting systems in which cleanliness of the field forms an important factor. In fact they are now convinced that weeds must be classed with such enemies as parasitic plants and insects.

Insects, mildews, blights, etc., were early condemned as sources of loss, but farmers have been slow to consider that much loss could be sustained by growing weeds. However, they see now that weeds involve extra labor, smother useful plants, take food from the soil, add impurities to the grain, rob the soil of moisture, afford shelter and food to injurious insects, and give fields an unsightly appearance.

In Bulletin LXXXV the principles which underlie a successful warfare against weeds were thoroughly discussed and reference was made to the best methods for destroying the following eleven varieties: Canada Thistle, Sow Thistle, Wild Flax, Pigeonweed, Ragweed, Couch Grass, Ox-eye Daisy, Burdock, Blueweed, Mustard and Wild Oat. In this bulletin we give a description of four additional weeds which, though not now so common, may soon become pests.

In examining the various lists we find reference made to 92 species, embracing 76 genera and 28 orders. Only a few observers refer to certain forms, but in order to give some idea of the number of plants considered as weeds, a tabulated statement is given which will be useful for showing in a concise form the weeds of Ontario.

So varied are the names given to some weeds that the writer in several cases had to secure the seed and grow the plant or get the plant itself before the local name reported could be understood. Taking the names given in the 1,015 replies we find the 25 following weeds are ranked as the worst, the figures given indicating the number of persons who gave the above in their list of the 10 worst weeds:

|                     |       |                      |     |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-----|
| Canada Thistle..... | 1,015 | Foxtail .....        | 182 |
| Mustard.....        | 666   | Pigweed .....        | 126 |
| Wild Oat.....       | 472   | Black Bindweed.....  | 112 |
| Ox-eye Daisy.....   | 463   | Milkweed .....       | 98  |
| Burdock.....        | 439   | Sorrel.....          | 92  |
| Couch Grass.....    | 401   | Purslane .....       | 82  |
| Ragweed.....        | 303   | Blueweed .....       | 79  |
| Wild Peas.....      | 288   | Mullein .....        | 69  |
| Cockle.....         | 241   | Mayweed .....        | 60  |
| Dock.....           | 232   | Lamb's Quarters..... | 55  |
| Redroot.....        | 217   | Sow Thistle.....     | 50  |
| Bur.....            | 212   | Bindweed .....       | 46  |
| Wild Flax.....      | 173   |                      |     |

#### Penny Cress.

Penny Cress (*Thlaspi Arvense*) is not yet a common weed in our province, but we may reasonably expect to find it get a firm foothold if its approach is not carefully guarded. It is very common in the Red River valley of Manitoba where it is called the French weed, and as much wheat is being imported from that country this plant will certainly come in the seed. Already it has been found in several parts of Ontario. It belongs to the mustard family and like the other members of it, produces many seeds which are endowed with much vitality. The pods of this plant are very characteristic, being somewhat circular and flat with a distinct notch at the top. The leaves are oblong, arrow shaped at the base, toothed and smooth. It bears very small white flowers. It is an annual, about one foot high and emits a strong somewhat offensive odor when bruised. The method followed in destroying mustard may be adopted to get rid of this pest and exercise vigilance to keep it from getting a foothold. The accompanying cut will prove useful in identifying this new-comer.



PENNY CRESS (*Thlaspi Arvense*).

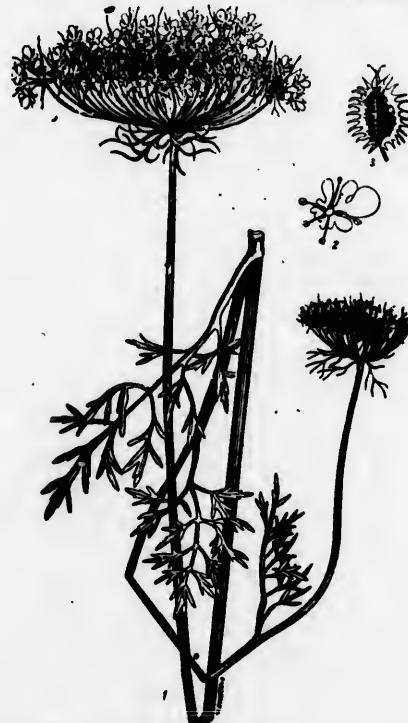
feet high  
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*Tumbling Weed.*

Another weed that we may expect from the west is known as Tumbling Weed (*Sisymbrium Sinapistrum*), also a member of the mustard family. It is reported by Prof. Fletcher as common around Indian Head, N. W. T. This annual is about two feet high, bears many pods, each well filled with small round brown-colored seeds. It matures its seed about the same time as mustard. Great care should be taken to prevent the plant getting a foothold in Ontario. It is not a native of the Northwest Territory but seems to have been introduced there. It is a native of Europe.

*Wild Carrot.*

The Wild Carrot (*Daucus Carota*) is a degraded form of the cultivated carrot and, like it, is biennial. It grows about two or three



WILD CARROT (*Daucus Carota*).

feet high and bears many flower clusters which, as they mature, form a sort of bird-nest structure with each umbel. Being a biennial it

cannot survive long where thorough cultivation is carried on, and hence is most frequently found along roadsides, railway tracks, etc. Hand pulling and destroying as fast as it reaches flower will be effective. Spudding a few inches below the surface will kill it, but cutting it at the surface has a tendency to make it increase the number of its branches.

#### *Clot-bur.*

Clot-bur (*Xanthium Canadense*) is a large coarse annual reported from the western part of the province. It bears some resemblance to the burdock in having large coarse leaves and the seed in a bur. The bur is oval, about an inch long and covered



*Clot-bur (Xanthium Canadense).*

with stiff hooked prickles. Like Ragweed it has two kinds of flowers —staminate at the summit in spike clusters and pistillate below. The plant is about three feet high. *Xanthium Spinosum*, a very thorny form, is found in the vicinity of Dundas, but it is more confined to the Southern States where it is a very obnoxious weed.

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*Dodder.*

The Dodder (*Cuscuta Trifolii*) is a parasitic plant, an annual which is found twining around the stem of clover. Some specimens were received for identification from the vicinity of Drayton. The seeds of the dodder are sometimes found among clover seed. When these are sown they germinate and reach the clover plants around which they twine and send out from all parts of their stem rootlets that penetrate the clover stems and absorb sap from them and soon weaken the plants upon which they grow. The dodder stem as soon



DODDER (*Cuscuta Trifolii*).

as it gets a firm hold of the clover breaks away from the seed from which it started and lives entirely upon the clover as a regular parasite. When found attacking clover the plants affected should be removed. It is easily recognized as a yellow, leafless, string-like plant twining around the clover. Care should be exercised to sow clean clover seed. Dodder seeds though similar to clover seed are smaller and may be screened. In Europe this parasite is often injurious. The specimens which have come under the writer's

observation were attached to stems of lucerne in one case and clover in another; the latter were sent from the vicinity of Drayton and it would appear that this weed is being introduced into some parts of the province. Every precaution should be taken by farmers to prevent its distribution.

In the following tabulated list of weeds we find the Mustard family supplies 7; Pink, 6; Bean, 5; Sunflower or Composite, 22; Figwort, 4; Bur, 4; Mint, 3; Buckwheat, 6, and the Grass, 6. The other orders or families are represented by only one or two forms.

#### A TABULATED LIST OF THE MOST COMMON WEEDS IN ONTARIO.

| Order.         | Scientific name.                         | Common name.                   |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Ranunculaceæ   | <i>Ranunculus acris</i> . . . . .        | Buttercup . . . . . P          |
| "              | <i>Ranunculus soleratus</i> . . . . .    | Cursed Buttercup . . . . . A   |
| Cruciferæ      | <i>Camelina sativa</i> . . . . .         | False Flax . . . . . A         |
| "              | <i>Capella Bursa-pastoris</i> . . . . .  | Shepherd's purse . . . . . A   |
| "              | <i>Lepidium Virginicum</i> . . . . .     | Pepperwort . . . . . A         |
| "              | <i>Thlaspi arvense</i> . . . . .         | Pennycress . . . . . A         |
| "              | <i>Brassica Sinapistrum</i> . . . . .    | Wild mustard . . . . . A       |
| "              | <i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> . . . . .   | Hedge mustard . . . . . A      |
| Papaveraceæ    | <i>Erysimum cheiranthoides</i> . . . . . | Worm-seed mustard . . . . . A  |
| Hypericaceæ    | <i>Chelidonium majus</i> . . . . .       | Celandine . . . . . P          |
| Caryophyllaceæ | <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> . . . . .    | St. John's wort . . . . . P    |
| "              | <i>Lychnis Githago</i> . . . . .         | Corn Cockle . . . . . A        |
| "              | <i>Lychnis vespertina</i> . . . . .      | White Cockle . . . . . B       |
| "              | <i>Silene inflata</i> . . . . .          | Bladder Campion . . . . . P    |
| "              | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> . . . . .       | Field Chickweed . . . . . P    |
| Portulacaceæ   | <i>Saponaria officinalis</i> . . . . .   | Bouncing Bet . . . . . P       |
| Malvaceæ       | <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> . . . . .      | Chickweed . . . . . A          |
| Anacardiaceæ   | <i>Malva rotundifolia</i> . . . . .      | Purplelane . . . . . A         |
| "              | <i>Rhus venenata</i> . . . . .           | Mallow . . . . . P             |
| Leguminosæ     | <i>Rhus toxicodendron</i> . . . . .      | Poison Sumach . . . . . P      |
| "              | <i>Rhus radicans</i> . . . . .           | Poison Ivy . . . . . P         |
| "              | <i>Trifolium arvense</i> . . . . .       | Climbing Ivy . . . . . P       |
| "              | <i>Vicia Cracca</i> . . . . .            | Rabbit-foot clover . . . . . A |
| "              | <i>Medicago lupulina</i> . . . . .       | Wild Tare . . . . . P          |
| Umbelliferæ    | <i>Melilotus alba</i> . . . . .          | Black Medick . . . . . A       |
| "              | <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> . . . . .   | Sweet clover . . . . . A       |
| "              | <i>Daucus carota</i> . . . . .           | Yellow Melilot . . . . . A     |
| Onagraceæ      | <i>Conium maculatum</i> . . . . .        | Wild Carrot . . . . . B        |
| "              | <i>Pastinaca sativa</i> . . . . .        | Poison Hemlock . . . . . B     |
| Crassulaceæ    | <i>Enothera biennis</i> . . . . .        | Wild Parsnip . . . . . B       |
| Dipsaceæ       | <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> . . . . . | Evening Primrose . . . . . B   |
| Compositæ      | <i>Sedum acre</i> . . . . .              | Willow-herb . . . . . P        |
| "              | <i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i> . . . . .     | Mossy Stone crop . . . . . P   |
| "              | <i>Sentecio vulgaris</i> . . . . .       | Tassel . . . . . B             |
| "              | <i>Ambrosia artemisiæfolia</i> . . . . . | Groundsel . . . . . A          |
| "              | <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> . . . . .    | Ragweed . . . . . A            |
|                | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> . . . . .    | Ox-eye Daisy . . . . . P       |
|                |  | Yarrow . . . . . P             |

NOTE.—A is for annual, B for biennial and P for perennial.

## WEEDS IN ONTARIO—Continued.

| Order.                     | Scientific name.               | Common name.                 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Composite . . . . .        |                                |                              |
| "                          | <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>       | Tansy . . . . . P            |
| "                          | <i>Solidago Canadensis</i>     | Golden Rod . . . . . P       |
| "                          | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>         | Cone-Flower . . . . . B      |
| "                          | <i>Centaurea Cyanus</i>        | Bluebottle . . . . . A       |
| "                          | <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>       | Sow Thistle . . . . . A      |
| "                          | <i>Sonchus arvensis</i>        | Corn Thistle . . . . . A     |
| "                          | <i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i> | Fireweed . . . . . A         |
| "                          | <i>Arctium Lappa</i>           | Burdock . . . . . B          |
| "                          | <i>Cichorium Intybus</i>       | Chicory . . . . . P          |
| "                          | <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>    | Dandelion . . . . . P        |
| "                          | <i>Erigeron Canadense</i>      | Fleabane . . . . . A         |
| "                          | <i>Anthemis Cotaia</i>         | Mayweed . . . . . A          |
| "                          | <i>Anthemis arvensis</i>       | Field Chamomile . . . . . A  |
| "                          | <i>Cnicus arvensis</i>         | Canada Thistle . . . . . B   |
| "                          | <i>Cnicus lanceolatus</i>      | Bull Thistle . . . . . B     |
| "                          | <i>Bidens frondosa</i>         | Bur Marigold . . . . . P     |
| "                          | <i>Inula Helenium</i>          | Elecampane . . . . . P       |
| "                          | <i>Xanthium Canadense</i>      | Clot-bur . . . . . A         |
| Scrophulariaceae . . . . . | <i>Verbascum Thapsus</i>       | Mullein . . . . . B          |
| "                          | <i>Veronica arvensis</i>       | Speedwell . . . . . A        |
| "                          | <i>Veronica'peregrina</i>      | Neckweed . . . . . A         |
| Verbenaceae . . . . .      | <i>Linaria vulgaris</i>        | Toad Flax . . . . . P        |
| Labiatae . . . . .         | <i>Verbena hastata</i>         | Vervain . . . . . P          |
| "                          | <i>Leonurus Cardica</i>        | Motherwort . . . . . P       |
| Nepeta Cataria . . . . .   | <i>Nepeta Cataria</i>          | Catnip . . . . . P           |
| Boraginaceae . . . . .     | <i>Brunella vulgaris</i>       | Self-Heal . . . . . P        |
| "                          | <i>Echinospermum Lappula</i>   | Sticksseed . . . . . B       |
| "                          | <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>  | Hound's Tongue . . . . . B   |
| "                          | <i>Echium vulgare</i>          | Blueweed . . . . . B         |
| Solanaceae . . . . .       | <i>Lithospermum arvense</i>    | Pigeonweed . . . . . A       |
| "                          | <i>Datura Stramonium</i>       | Thorn-Apple . . . . . A      |
| Convolvulaceae . . . . .   | <i>Physalis viscosa</i>        | Ground Cherry . . . . . P    |
| "                          | <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>    | Bindweed . . . . . P         |
| Aesclepiadaceae . . . . .  | <i>Cuscuta trifolii</i>        | Dodder . . . . . A           |
| Plantaginaceae . . . . .   | <i>Asclepias Cornuta</i>       | Milkweed . . . . . A         |
| Chenopodiaceae . . . . .   | <i>Plantago major</i>          | Plantain . . . . . P         |
| "                          | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>     | Rib-grass . . . . . P        |
| Amarantaceae . . . . .     | <i>Chenopodium album</i>       | Lamb's Quarters . . . . . A  |
| Polygonaceae . . . . .     | <i>Chenopodium capitatum</i>   | Strawberry Blite . . . . . A |
| "                          | <i>Amarantus retroflexus</i>   | Pigweed . . . . . A          |
| "                          | <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>     | Goose Grass . . . . . A      |
| "                          | <i>Polygonum Convolvulus</i>   | Black Bindweed . . . . . A   |
| "                          | <i>Polygonum Persicaria</i>    | Lady's Thumb . . . . . A     |
| Urticaceae . . . . .       | <i>Rumex acetosella</i>        | Sorrel . . . . . P           |
| Liliaceae . . . . .        | <i>Rumex crispus</i>           | Common Dock . . . . . P      |
| "                          | <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>      | Bitter Dock . . . . . P      |
| Gramineae . . . . .        | <i>Urtica dioica</i> . . . . . | Nettle . . . . . P           |
| "                          | <i>Allium tricoccum</i>        | Wild Leek . . . . . P        |
| "                          | <i>Bromus secalinus</i>        | Chess . . . . . A            |
| "                          | <i>Setaria glauca</i>          | Foxtail . . . . . A          |
| "                          | <i>Panicum Crus-galli</i>      | Barnyard Grass . . . . . A   |
| "                          | <i>Panicum capillare</i>       | Witch Grass . . . . . A      |
| "                          | <i>Avena fatua</i>             | Wild Oat . . . . . A         |
| "                          | <i>Agropyrum repens</i>        | Couch Grass . . . . . P      |

