

## Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)



Perennial, reproducing by large creeping rhizomes and seeds. Stems erect, stout, from 1 1/2 to 7 feet tall or more. Leaves smooth, 6 to 20 inches long, and 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches wide with a prominent midrib and white mid-vein. Seed generally turns reddish-brown or darker when mature.

## Shattercane (*Sorghum bicolor*)



Warm-season annual, reproducing by seed. Stems erect, smooth, 4 to 8 feet tall with crown. Leaves resemble those of forage sorghum with a prominent whitish-green mid-vein. Seed heads resemble forage sorghum but seeds appear dark red to black when mature.

## Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*)



Summer annual, a prolific seed producer. Grows 2 to 3 inches per day and can grow up to 6 to 10 feet or more. Female plants can produce 100,000 to 500,000 seeds per plant. Resistant to many herbicides.

## Waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*)



Summer annual, a prolific seed producer. Grows 1 to 1 1/4 inches per day and up to 2 to 8 feet or more. Female plants can produce 250,000 seeds or more. This weed is poisonous for cattle, horses, sheep and goats when ingested.

Thistle, Johnsongrass, Shattercane, Palmer Amaranth, and Waterhemp have been declared prohibited noxious weeds in Maryland.

These weeds must be controlled by anyone owning or managing land within the State. Once the plants have matured, seeds from these noxious weeds are transported by wind, water, and man.

These weeds threaten the productive land of farmers and cause problems in commercial and development lands, lawns, and gardens of homeowners.

General control practices include mowing, cultivation, and/or treatment with approved herbicide.

For further information concerning the Maryland Noxious Weed Law and/or acceptable control practices, please contact:

Maryland Department Of Agriculture  
Plant Protection And Weed  
Management Section

50 Harry S Truman Pkwy, Annapolis,  
MD 21401

410-841-5920

[www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov)

\*All photos taken by MDA employees.

# Maryland Noxious Weed IID

Palmer Amaranth  
Waterhemp  
Johnsongrass  
Shattercane  
Canada Thistle  
Bull Thistle  
Plumeless Thistle  
Musk Thistle



**Canada Thistle**  
(*Cirsium arvense*)



Perennial, up to five feet, reproduction primarily by extensive creeping rhizomes but also by seed. Stems erect, grooved, with branching near top of plant. Leaves oblong, lance-shaped, often with spiny margins. Flowers compact, numerous, and small, 3/4 inch in diameter light lavender to rose color. Male and female flowers produced on separate plants. Blooms late May to late June with flowering recurring later in season, through September.

**Bull Thistle**  
(*Cirsium vulgare*)



Biennial, reproducing by seeds. Taproot fleshy. Rosette leaves are woolly and grayish. Stem is branched and hairy, two to five tall or more. Leaves extend down the stem in spiny wings. Leaves deeply cut or lobed with sharp, long, apical spines. Upper leaf surface has short stiff hairs. Mature plant can resemble a Christmas tree form. Flower heads are compact, 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, rose to purple in color. Blooms from July to September.

**Plumeless Thistle**  
(*Carduus acanthoides*)



Biennial (sometimes annual), up to six feet tall, reproducing by seed only. Very similar to musk except underside of leaf has compact hairs, leaves are more narrow and deeply serrated. Flowers are globe shaped, erect, single or clustered, with spiny wings to base. Flowers are much smaller than musk thistle, 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter, reddish purple. Blooms from May to July. More common than musk thistle in most areas of Maryland.

**Musk Thistle**  
(*Carduus nutans*)



Biennial (sometimes annual), up to eight feet tall, reproducing by seed only. Taproot large, fleshy, and hollow near soil surface. Stems tall erect, and spiny, with spiny wings, lower portion branched. Leaves alternate, coarsely toothed, with prominent yellow spines. Flowers are large (as much as 2 inches across) on ends of long, nearly naked stems, frequently drooping or nodding, purple to lavender. Bloom is in May or June, followed by seed production.