



Oklahoma's Problem Species



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Problem Species

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Gallery of Some of the Invasive Species Troubling Oklahoma Today!

Aquatic Species

Alternanthera philoxeroides, Alligator weed

Hydrilla verticillata, Hydrilla

Myriophyllum aquaticum, Parrot's feather

Myriophyllum spicatum, Eurasian watermilfoil

Potamogeton crispus, Curlyleaf pondweed

Riparian and Wetland Species

Lythrum salicaria, Purple loosestrife

Perilla frutescens, Beefsteak plant

Saccharum ravennae, Revennagrass

Tamarix species, Salt cedar, tamarisk

Terrestrials Species

Albizia julibrissin, Mimosa, silk tree

Bothriochloa bladhii, Caucasian bluestem

Bothriochloa ischaemum, King Ranch bluestem, yellow bluestem

Bromus japonicus, Japanese brome

Bromus racemosus, Meadow brome

Bromus tectorum, Cheat grass

Carduus nutans, Musk thistle, nodding plumeless thistle

Cirsium arvense, Canadian thistle

Cirsium vulgare, Bull thistle

Conium maculatum, Poison hemlock

Convolvulus arvensis, Field bindweed

Kochia scoparia, Mexican fireweed

Lespedeza cuneata, Sericea lespedeza

Ligustrum sinense, Chinese privet

Lonicera japonica, Japanese honeysuckle

Microstegium vimineum, Nepalese browntop

Potentilla recta, Sulfur cinquefoil

Comprehensive
List of Invasive
Plants of
Oklahoma

Pueraria montana, Kudzu

Rosa multiflora, Multiflora rose

Salsola tragus, Russian thistle, tumbleweed

Sorghum halepense, Johnson grass

Verbascum thapsus, Common mullein



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Web site hosted by the





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

Maps for confirmed county distributions in Oklahoma are by Oklahoma Biological Survey and should be considered works in progress.

Alternanthera philoxeroides, Alligator weed

Alligator weed is an aquatic growing on mud or in shallow water with leaves primarily held above the water. Listed on the Oklahoma invasive aquatic plant list as a plant to watch but has moved up.



Photo: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org & Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org





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Hydrilla verticillata, Hydrilla

An anchored, submerged aquatic that is a particularly nuisance in clear lakes. But cloudy lakes can serve as reservoir of hydrilla for contaminating other lakes most often aboard trailerable boats.



Photos: Bruce Hoagland, Murray Co., Lake of the Arbuckles





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Myriophyllum aquaticum, Parrot's feather or watermilfoil

Parrot feather is a rooted aquatic that grows on mud or in shallow water with the stem terminals, where most of the leaves exist, are held above the water. The leaves with hair like leaflets are whorled.



Photos: Bruce Hoagland, Cleveland and Delaware Co.





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

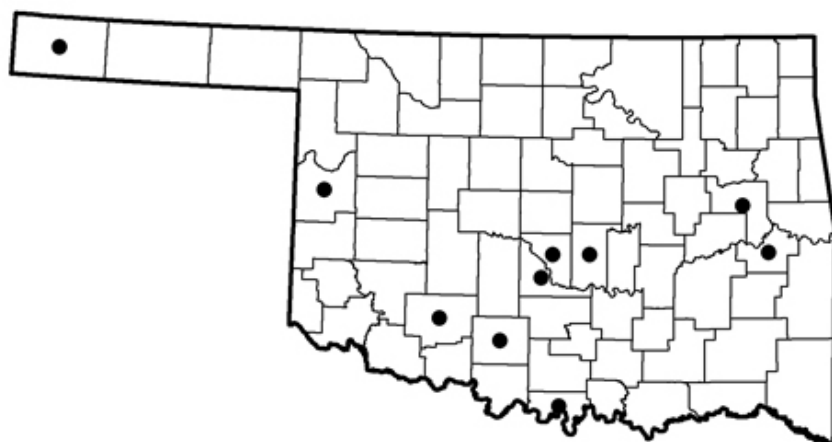
Maps for confirmed county distributions in Oklahoma are by Oklahoma Biological Survey and should be considered works in progress.

Myriophyllum spicatum, Eurasian watermilfoil

Eurasian watermilfoil is a rooted, submerged aquatic with leaves with hair like leaflets whorled usually in groups of fours. The portion of the stem with flowers is held above the water. The plants are often spread by fragmentation.



Photos: Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Potamogeton crispus, Curlyleaf pondweed

Curlyleaf Pondweed is a submerged, perennial aquatic plant with undulating leaf margins. Although of limited distribution in Oklahoma, this plant is listed as very invasive in other areas so is considered a serious threat here.



Photos: Paul Koenig, both in Honey Creek and Tish Lovesay, on top of *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Delaware County.



Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

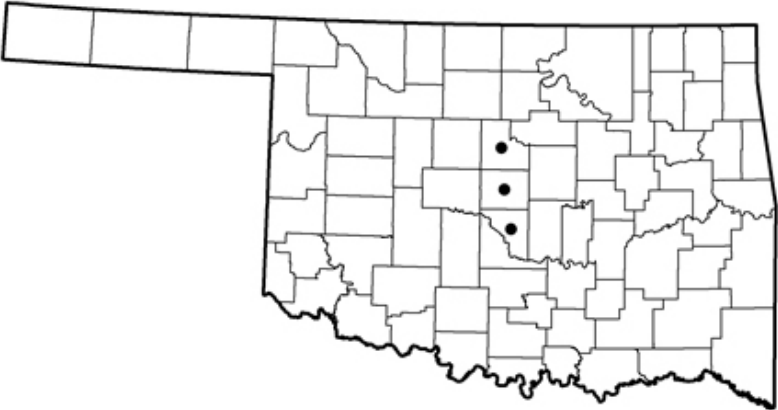
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Lythrum salicaria, Purple loosestrife

Purple loosestrife prefers moist areas, growing near water or in boggy areas. Listed in Oklahoma as a banned aquatic species but does not grow in water.



Photos: Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org & Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

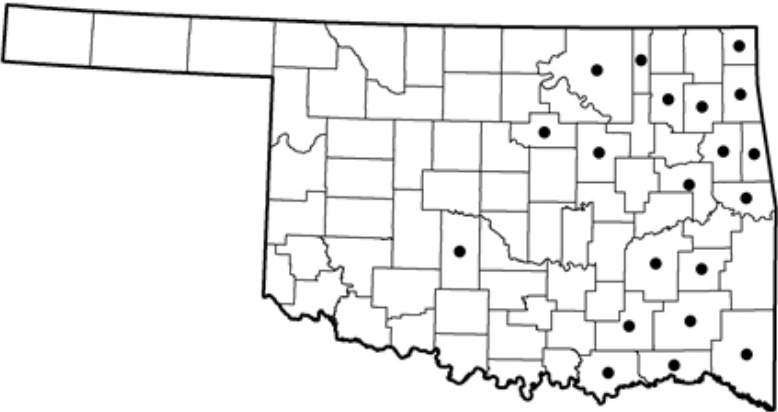
Maps for confirmed county distributions in Oklahoma are by Oklahoma Biological Survey and should be considered works in progress.

Perilla frutescens, Beefsteak plant

Beefsteak plant prefers moist areas, growing along water ways and in boggy areas.



Photos: Chadwick Cox, ONPS & John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

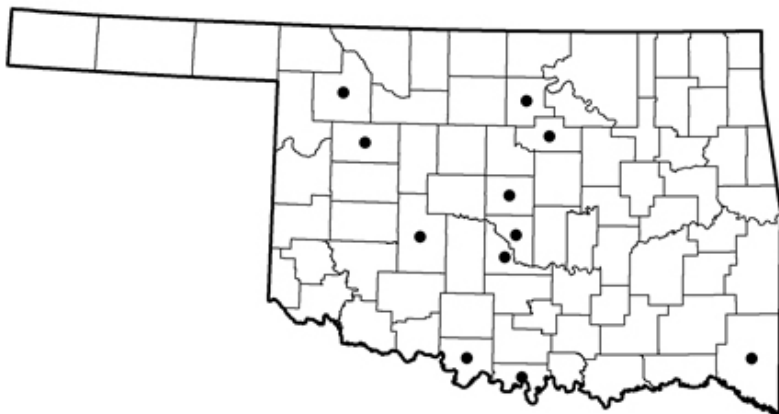
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Saccharum ravennae, Ravennagrass

An ornamental that prefers to be within 10 feet of lake waters and spreads out along this margin. Will grow in other moist areas. Ranging to 10 feet, Basal leaves 1 inch in width to 5 feet in length, sharply serrate with short, stiff hairs pointed toward apex, with white midrib. Multi branched spike,



Photos: Chadwick Cox, Cleveland County





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Tamarix chinensis, Chinese salt cedar, 5 stamen tamarisk

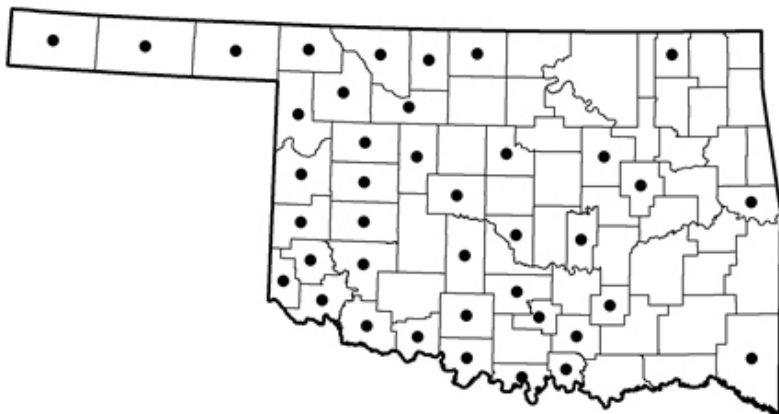
Tamarix parviflora, Small flowered tamarisk

Tamarix ramosissima, Salt cedar, tamarisk

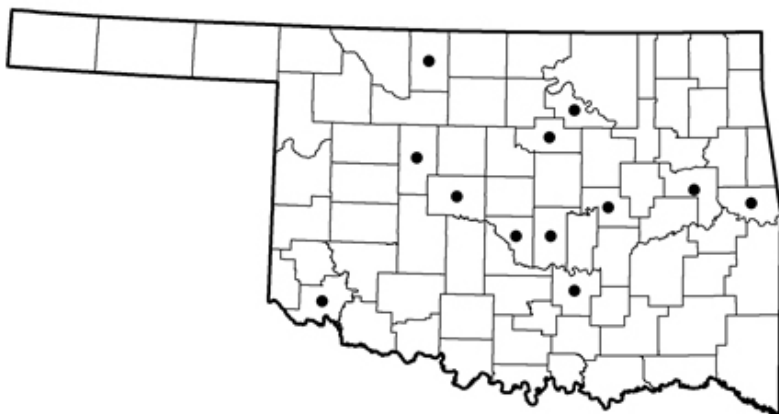
Tamarisks prefer moist areas and grow primarily along water ways, even those with water with significant levels of salt.. They are not only very invasive, growing in dense, monocultures but also transpire vast amounts of water.



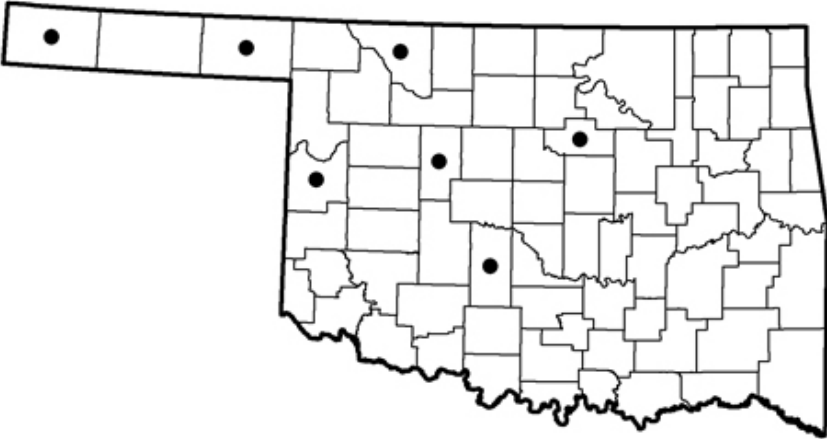
Photos: Chadwick Cox, Cleveland Co.



Tamarix chinensis



Tamarix parviflora



Tamrix ramosissima



Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Albizia julibrissin, Mimosa, silk tree

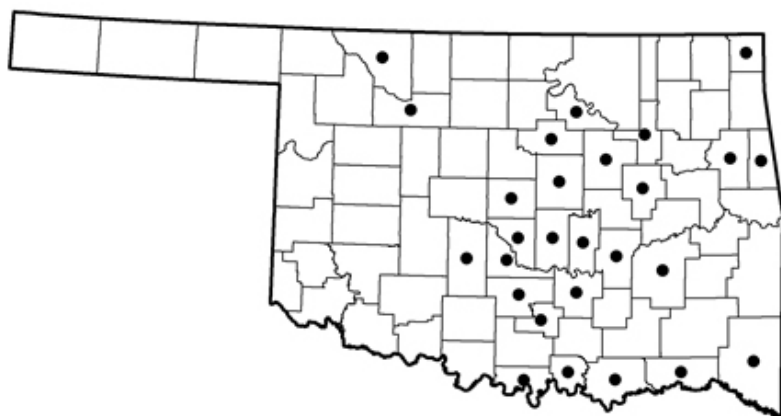
The mimosa tree is small but prolific, often displacing such natives as sumac. Another Asian ornamental. The leaflets are thin and plentiful which readily distinguishes them from leaves of native trees with compound leaves. The blooms are distinctive as well and the pods differ from those of native trees.



Photos: Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org & Bruce Hoagland, Cleveland Co.



Photos: Chadwick Cox, Cleveland Co. & David J. Moorhead, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Bothriochloa bladhii, Caucasian bluestem

Introduced as a forage plant and recommended for its heat tolerance. Foliage is dark bluish green.





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

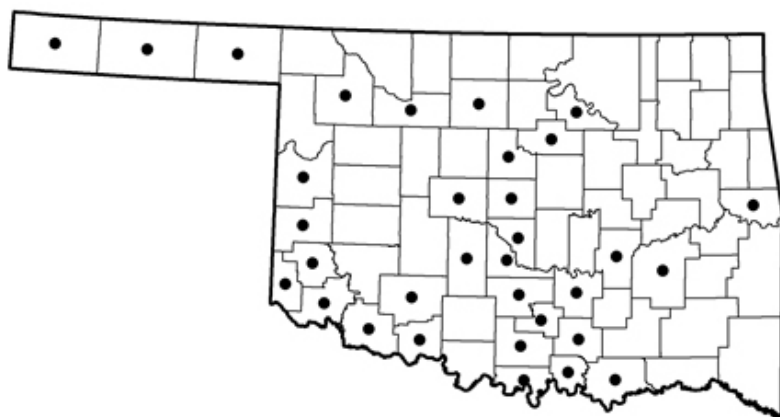
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Bothriochloa ischaemum, King Ranch bluestem or Yellow bluestem

Another introduced forage plant that was extensively recommended and now recognized as very invasive.



Photo: 2005 Luirig Rignanese





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

Maps for confirmed county distributions in Oklahoma are by Oklahoma Biological Survey and should be considered works in progress.

Bromus japonicus, Japanese brome

An early-spring, fast-growing grass with a flattened, nodding seed head.



Photo: NPS photo by Jim Pisarowicz





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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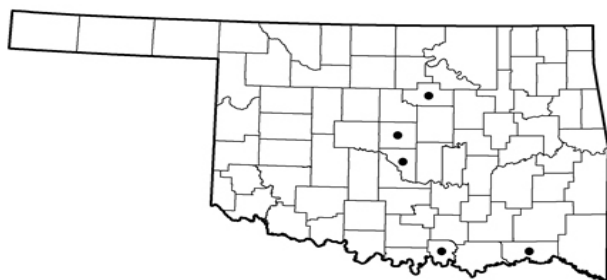
Bromus racemosus, Meadow brome

Bromus tectorum, Cheat grass

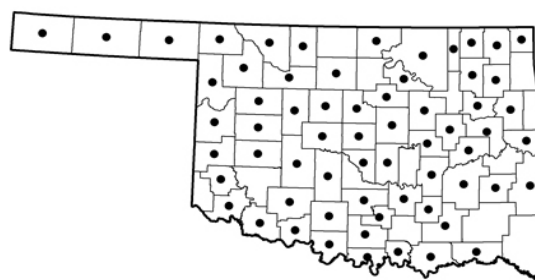
Both meadow brome and cheat grass are earlier spring grasses of about 2 feet that out compete many spring plants. Both are very similar but the seeds heads of meadow brome are held erect while those of cheat grass are usually nodding.



Photos: Chadwick Cox, ONPS



Bromus racemosus



Bromus tectorum



Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

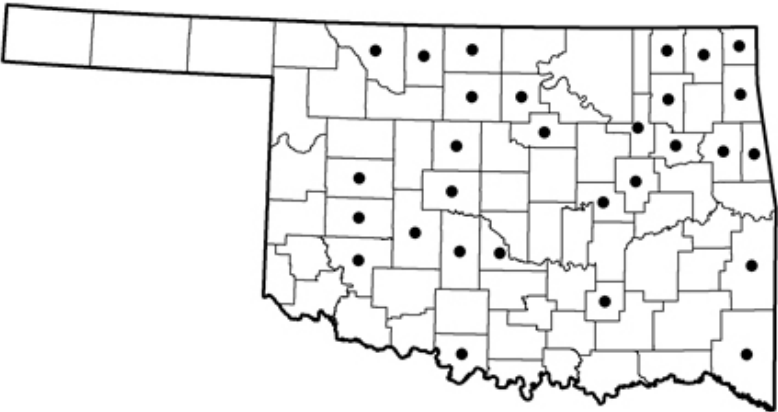
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Carduus nutans, Musk thistle, nodding plumeless thistle

Musk thistle has characteristically nodding blooms. One of the three banned terrestrial plants in Oklahoma but the most widely distributed of them.



Photos: Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, Bugwood.org & Chadwick Cox, Cleveland Co.





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Cirsium arvense, Canadian thistle

The hypanthium is relatively smooth and has a closed-mouth, vase like shape.



Photos: L.L. Berry, Bugwood.org and Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U. Conn., Bugwood.org



Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

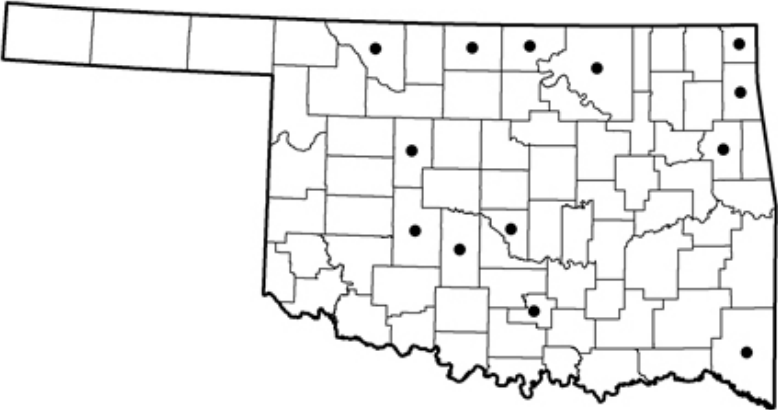
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Cirsium vulgare, Bull thistle

Bull thistle has a very spiny hypanthium but very smooth leaves.



Photos: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org





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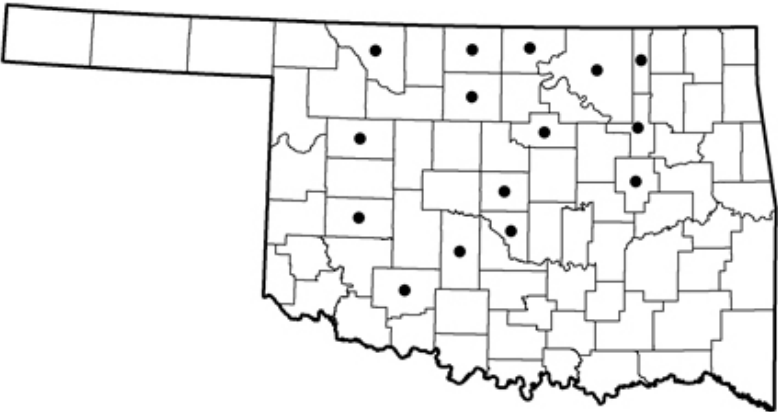
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Conium maculatum, Poison hemlock

Poison hemlock prefers a moist setting, growing in ditches and along water ways but not standing in water. The plants can be 3 meters in height. Not likely to be confused with any plant but the nonnative, invasive water hemlock.



Photos: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org & Jan Samanek, State Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Convolvulus arvensis, Field bindweed, creeping jenny

Primarily an agricultural pest but widely distributed and tenaciously persistent.

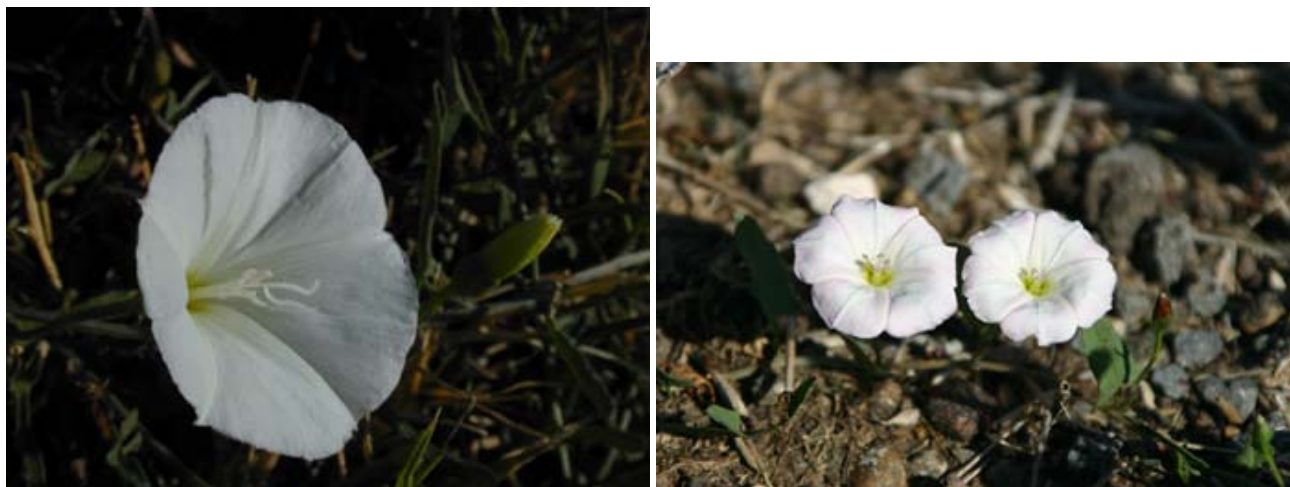
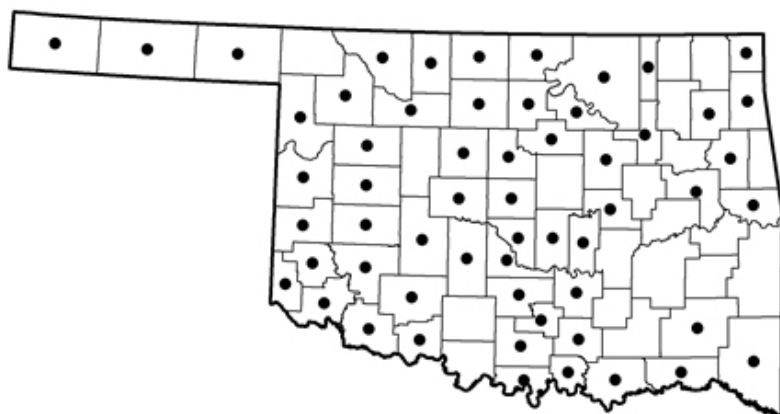


Photo: Chadwick Cox, Cleveland Co. and Bruce Hoagland, Oklahoma Co.





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

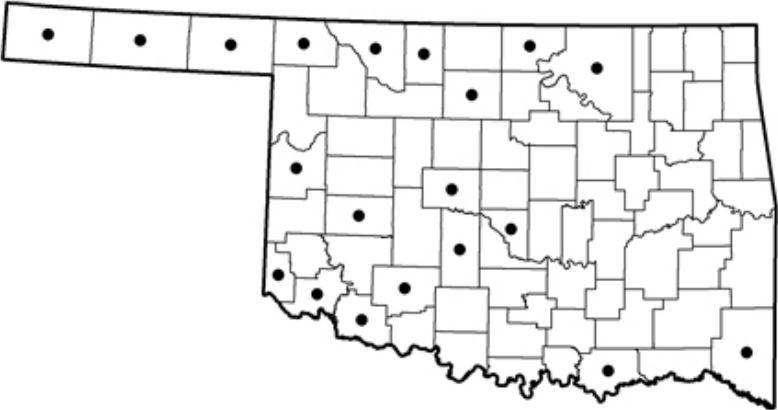
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Kochia scoparia, Mexican fireweed

Mexican fireweed grows well in areas that most plants would consider inhospitable and with forage possibilities has been recommended for areas where other crops are marginal at best.



Photos: Sawtooth National Forest photo collection





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

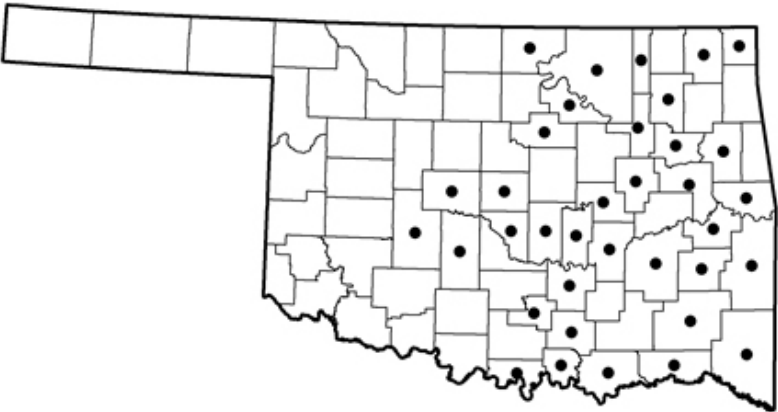
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Lespedeza cuneata, Chinese lespedeza

Chinese lespedeza, probably better known as sericea lespedeza, has wedge shaped leaflets as opposed to those of the native *Lespedeza virginica* with lance shaped leaflets. The flowers are cream with purple spots whereas *L. virginica*'s are pink.



Photos: Dan Tenaglia, Missouriplants.com, Bugwood.org & Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

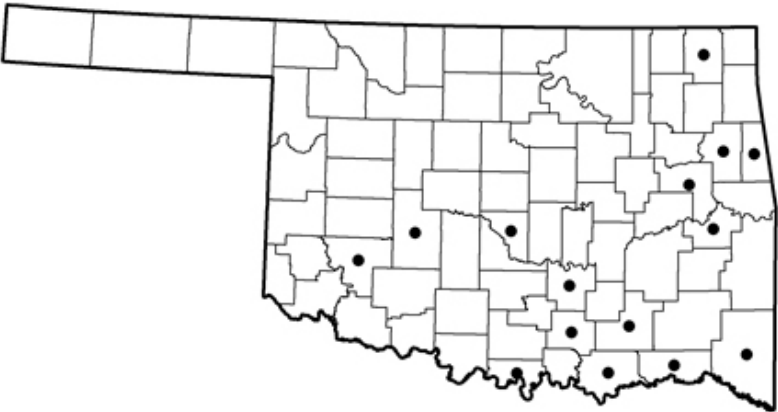
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Ligustrum sinense, Chinese privet

Probably the most common of the privet here is *Ligustrum sinense*, Chinese privet, but the privets are difficult to differentiate. Privet is a large evergreen shrub that grows well as under story. Opposite leaves. The plentiful blue black berries are readily eaten and spread by birds. Introduced from China through Japan and Europe as an ornamentals.



Photos: Chadwick Cox, Cleveland Co.





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

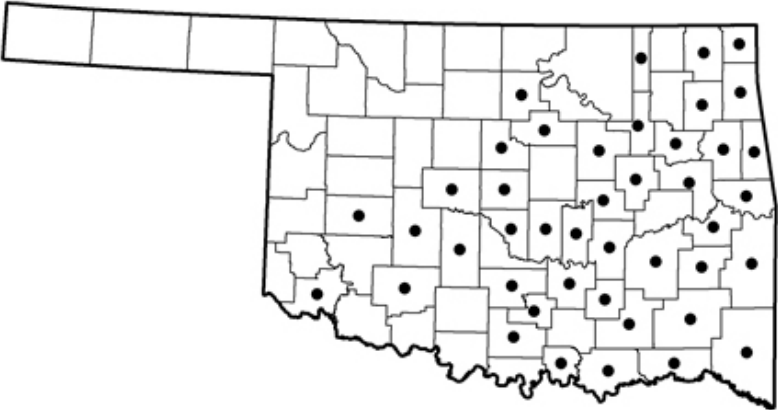
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Lonicera japonica, Japanese honeysuckle

Japanese honeysuckle is an evergreen, woody vine that can cover shrubs and trees. Introduced from Japan as an ornamental. Also used for deer and other wildlife forage. Opposite leaves. Fragrant, asymmetric tubular flowers are white turning yellow with age. Green berries ripen to blue black. It spreads rapidly by runners but is more distantly distributed by birds.



Photos: Chadwick Cox, Cleveland County & Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Microstegium vimineum, Nepalese browntop

Also known as Japanese grass, it has short, flat leaves, generously gapped and alternately arranged along stem that gives the appearance of very thin cane except for the leaf sheaths. Low branches can be root at nodes spreading the plants rapidly.



Photos: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U. Conn., Bugwood.org and David J. Moorhead, U. Ga., Bugwood.org



Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

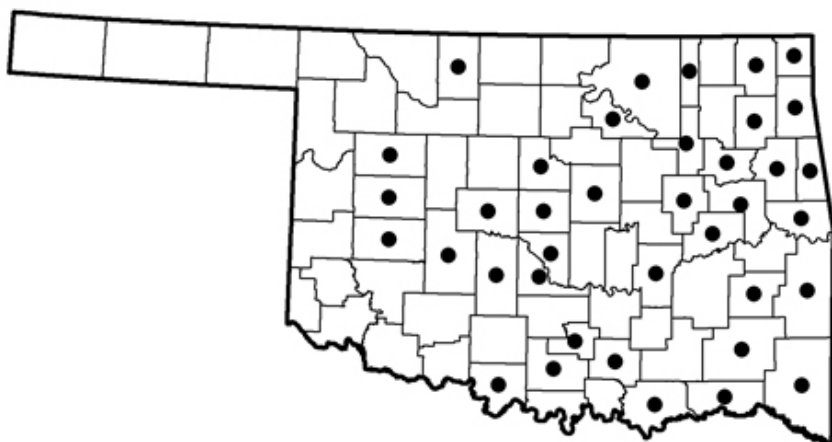
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Potentilla recta, Sulfur cinquefoil

Sulfur cinquefoil is a prairie plant with five, coarsely serrate leaflets.



Photos: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org & USDA ARS Archive, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org



Oklahoma Non-Native Invasive Plant Species

Developed by: OK Native Plant Society, OK Biological Survey, & OSU Natural Resource Ecology & Management

OK Problem Species:

<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa, silk tree
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> **	Alligator weed
<i>Bothriochloa bladhii</i>	Caucasian bluestem
<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i>	Yellow bluestem, King Ranch bluestem
<i>Bromus japonicus</i>	Japanese brome
<i>Bromus racemosus</i>	Meadow brome
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheat grass
<i>Carduus nutans</i> *	Musk thistle, nodding plumeless thistle
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> *	Canadian thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock
<i>Convolvulus arvense</i>	Field bindweed
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> *	Hydrilla
<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	Mexican fireweed
<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Sericea lespedeza
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese privet
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> *	Purple loosestrife
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Nepalese browntop
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> *	Parrot's feather,
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> **	Eurasian watermilfoil
<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Beefsteak plant
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulfur cinquefoil
<i>Pueraria montana</i>	Kudzu
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose
<i>Saccharum ravennae</i>	Revennagrass
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Russian thistle, tumbleweed
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson grass
<i>Tamarix chinensis</i>	Chinese salt cedar
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	Small flowered tamarisk
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Salt cedar, tamarisk
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Common mullein

OK Watch List:

<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of heaven
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	Paper mulberry
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Nut grass
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> **	Water hyacinth

<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive
<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	Thorny olive
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive
<i>Egeria densa</i> **	Brazilian waterweed
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Red stem stork's bill
<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Japanese privet
<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Tall fescue
<i>Lolium pratense</i>	Meadow ryegrass
<i>Lolium temulentum</i>	Darnel ryegrass
<i>Lonicera mackii</i>	Bush honeysuckle,
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Japanese climbing fern
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	chinaberry tree
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow sweet clover
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess tree
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery pear
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm

Problems in border states:

<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed
<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	Jointed goatgrass
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking chamomile
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock
<i>Artemisia annua</i>	Annual wormwood
<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Hairy jointgrass
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oats
<i>Azolla pinnata</i> *	Mosquito fern
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Yellow rocket
<i>Berteroa incana</i>	Hoary alyssum
<i>Bromus catharticus</i>	Rescue grass
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut brome
<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	Poverty brome
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth brome
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Lenspod whitetop
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Spiny plumeless thistle
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Woolly distaff thistle
<i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i> *	Mediterranean clone of caulerpa
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Bachelor button
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow star thistle
<i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i>	Mexican tree
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	Nettleleaf goosefoot
<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	Oxeye daisy

Problems in border states: (Continued)

<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	<i>Phalaris canariensis</i>	Annual canary grass
<i>Clematis terniflora</i>	Sweet autumn, virginsbower	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Cleome gynandra</i>	Spider wisps	<i>Pistia stratiotes**</i>	Water lettuce
<i>Colocasia esculenta**</i>	Wild taro	<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Bulbous bluegrass
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Purple crownvetch	<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canadian bluegrass
<i>Cosmos sulphureus</i>	Sulfur cosmos	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Prostrate knotweed
<i>Cucumis melo</i>	Cantaloupe	<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>	Black bindweed
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese bindweed
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchard grass	<i>Polygonum orientale</i>	Kiss me over the gate, princess feather
<i>Datura quercifolia</i>	Chinese thorn-apple	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Spotted ladythumb
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Ann's lace	<i>Populus alba</i>	White popular
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford pink	<i>Ranunculus sardous</i>	Hairy buttercup
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Fuller's teasel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Common sheep sorrel
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	Barnyard grass	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curlydock
<i>Eichhornia azurea*</i>	Anchored water hyacinth	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Bitter dock
<i>Elymus repens</i>	Quack grass	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia*</i>	Japanese arrowhead
<i>Eragrostis cilianensis</i>	Stines grass	<i>Salsola collina</i>	Slender Russian thistle
<i>Erysimum repandum</i>	Spreading wallflower	<i>Salvinia auriculata*</i>	Giant salvinia
<i>Fatoua villosa</i>	Hairy crabweed	<i>Salvinia biloba*</i>	Giant salvinia
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cutleaf geranium	<i>Salvinia herzogii*</i>	Giant salvinia
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy	<i>Salvinia minima**</i>	Common salvinia
<i>Glossostigma diandrum*</i>	Mud mat	<i>Salvinia molesta*</i>	Giant salvinia
<i>Hibiscus trionum</i>	Flower of an hour	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Bouncybet
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Common velvet grass	<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	German knotgrass
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Common barley	<i>Sclerochloa dura</i>	Hard grass
<i>Hydrocleys nymphoides**</i>	Water poppy	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Old man in the spring, Common groundsel
<i>Hygrophila polysperma*</i>	Indian hygrophylla	<i>Senna occidentalis</i>	Septicweed
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. Johnswort	<i>Setaria faberi</i>	Japanese brittlegrass
<i>Ipomoea aquatica*</i>	Water spinach	<i>Setaria verticillata</i>	Hooked brittlegrass
<i>Ipomoea hederacea</i>	Ivyleaf "morning glory"	<i>Setaria viridis</i>	Green brittlegrass, green foxtail
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Tall "morning glory"	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Blessed milkthistle
<i>Iris pseudacorus**</i>	Yellow iris	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	Tall tumble mustard
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard
<i>Lagarosiphon major*</i>	African elodea	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Climbing nightshade
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit, dead nettle	<i>Solanum tampicense*</i>	Wetland nightshade
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Purple deadnettle	<i>Soliva sessilis</i>	Field burweed
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Spiny sowthistle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Common nipplewort	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common sowthistle
<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Common motherwort	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	Sorghum
<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	Field pepperweed	<i>Sparganium erectum*</i>	Exotic bur-reed
<i>Lepidium perfoliatum</i>	Clasping pepperweed	<i>Spirodela punctata**</i>	Dotted duckweed
<i>Limnophila sessiliflora*</i>	Asian marshweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common tansy
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Yellow toadflax	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	Field pennycress
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdfoot deervetch	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Yellow salsify
<i>Ludwigia hexapetala**</i>	Water primrose	<i>Trapa natans**</i>	Water chestnut
<i>Lycium barbarum</i>	Matrimony vine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncture vine
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Rabbit clover
<i>Marsilea minuta*</i>	Dwarf water clover	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Field clover
<i>Marsilea mutica*</i>	Australian waterclover	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson clover
<i>Marsilea quadrifolia*</i>	European water clover	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese elm
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Hop medic black	<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>	Moth mullein
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Burclover	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Corn speedwell
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia*</i>	Paperbark tree	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	White vetch
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry tree	<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat-tailed fescue
<i>Monochoria hastata*</i>	Cat's claw		
<i>Morus alba</i>	White chinaberry, Russian or silkworm mulberry		
<i>Najas minor**</i>	Brittle niad		
<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Catnip		
<i>Nymphoides peltata**</i>	Yellow floating heart		
<i>Onopordum acanthium*</i>	Scotch thistle		
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star of Bethelium		
<i>Ottelia alismoides*</i>	Duck lettuce		
<i>Panicum repens**</i>	Torpedo grass		
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Poppy		
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Santa Maria feverfew		
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Dallisgrass		
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnips		

* Currently in Oklahoma banned by law and ** on watch list by law.



Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

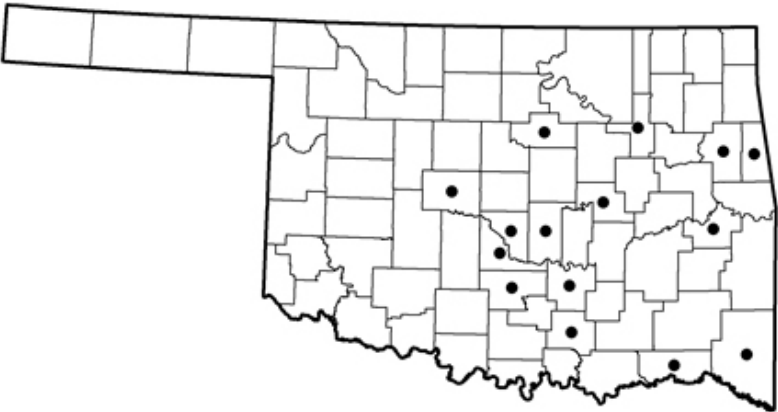
Maps for confirmed county distributions in Oklahoma are by Oklahoma Biological Survey and should be considered works in progress.

Pueraria montana, Kudzu

Kudzu is probably the most recognized invasive plant because of the large areas where the vines thoroughly cover all vegetation, including shrubs and trees. A very fast grower, so don't fall asleep near it.



Photos: Bruce Hoagland, Adair, Pontotoc and Choctaw Co. and Kim Starr, United States Geological Survey, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

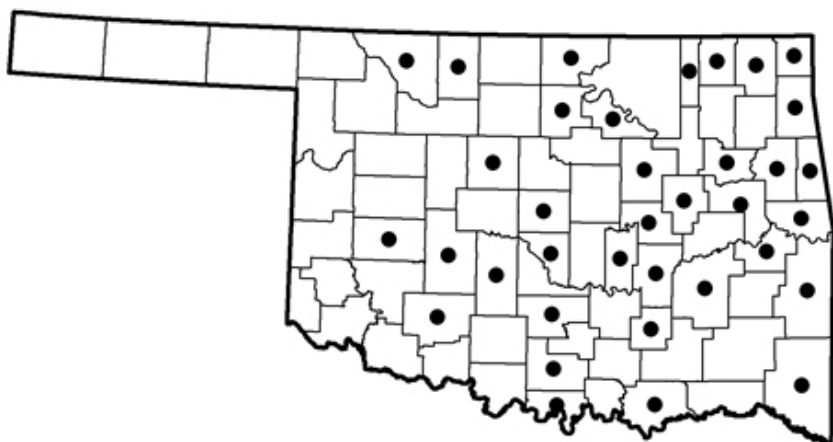
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Rosa multiflora, Multiflora rose

Multiflora rose, a single petal rose, is well named for the plentiful blooms. The fringed wings on branches is characteristic.



Photos: Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

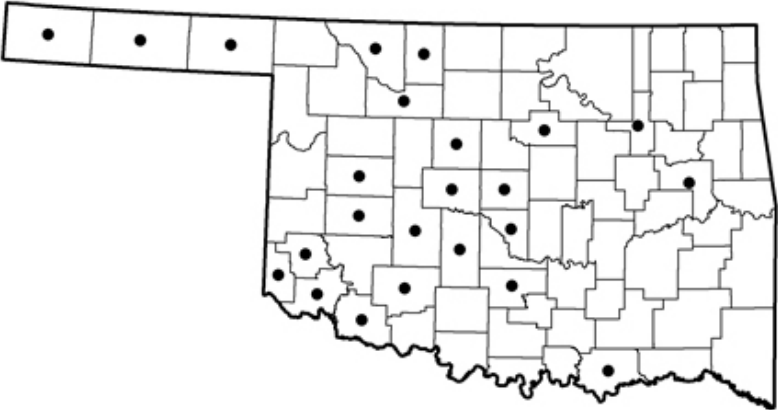
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Salsola tragus, Russian thistle or tumbleweed

Russian Thistle is what most of us think of as tumbleweed. As the plant dries up it breaks free from the ground and is free to be blown across the country side spreading seeds. While there are other plants that use this strategy, the large piles of dried Russian thistles on fence lines warrants recognition as the epitome of tumbleweeds.



Photos: Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, Bugwood.org & Forest & Kim Starr, United States Geological Survey, Bugwood.org





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

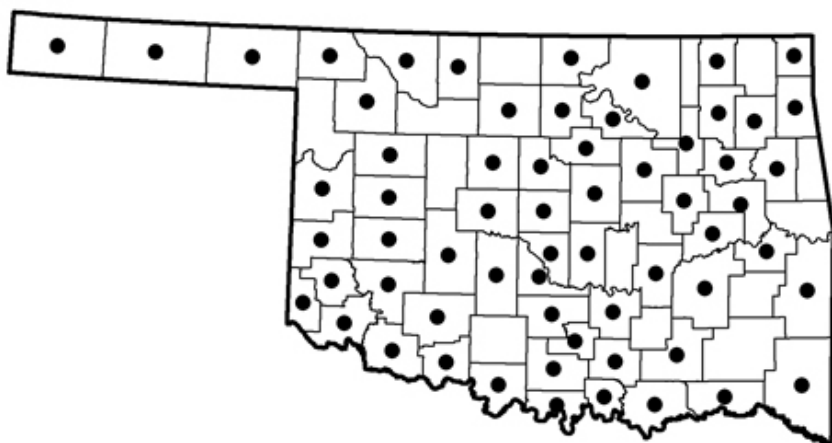
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Sorghum halepense, Johnson grass

Johnson grass is probably the most common tall, roadside grass here in Oklahoma as well as many other states. It can be distinguished from native purple top by the white mid rib of the leaf but also by the bloom arrangement of a female flower with one or more often two male flowers above it.



Photo: Chadwick Cox





Invasive Plants of Oklahoma

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Verbascum thapsus, Common mullein

Common mullein is a common plant in much of America. A biennial that remains in the rosette stage during the first year, flowers during early summer of the second year and dries to brown stalks by fall.



Photos: Forest & Kim Starr, United States Geological Survey, Bugwood.org & Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org & Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, Bugwood.org

