

RECENT INDIANA WEEDS, 1925.¹

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This paper is one of a series of contributions on the subject started in 1922. It attempts to record the occurrence in Indiana of plants new to the state, particularly species with weedy proclivities. Established plants that have recently displayed troublesome tendencies in the state are also considered. The present paper covers the growing season of 1925.

Fitsroot—*Astragalus glycyphyllos* L. An immigrant from Russia, found in the vicinity of Rochester. On the Louis Murray farm near Rochester, a patch of this species covering about 1,200 square feet is said to have persisted for over 50 years. The local name "fitsroot" was evidently applied to the plant on account of its supposed value in the treatment of convulsions in children and for nervous disorders, for which purpose a tea is brewed from the stems and leaves. According to the owner of the farm, people come from miles around in order to gather the plant. The species was identified by A. S. Hitchcock, of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Japanese Bindweed—*Convolvulus japonicus* Thunb. A handsome Asiatic species that has escaped from cultivation in Marion County. In the wild state the specimens collected possessed the double flowers so characteristic of the plant under cultivation. The identification was confirmed by James P. Poole, of the Gary Herbarium. The Japanese bindweed apparently frequently escapes from cultivation in the East but not in the Mid-west.

Canada Thistle—*Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. A number of distinct varieties of this common plant apparently grow abundantly in Indiana. During 1924 the occurrence of *C. arvense* var. *mite* was recorded. Two other common varieties have been observed and specimens collected in Hancock and Grant counties. They were identified by A. S. Hitchcock as *C. arvense* var. *vestitum* Wimm and Grab., and a form midway between this variety and variety *integrifolium* Wimm and Grab. These various varieties are so distinct that it is frequently difficult to convince farmers that they are genuine Canada thistle.

Wild Marigold—*Matricaria matricarioides* (Less.) Porter. A very common species in Tippecanoe County and also collected in Hamilton County near Atlanta. It makes such a dense growth in barn yards as to practically exclude all other vegetation. The plant has the aspect of *Anthemis cotula* L. and is commonly called fennel by farmers although

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it lacks the characteristic odor of dog fennel. The identification was verified by S. F. Blake, of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry.

Stinking Goosefoot—*Chenopodium vulvaria* L. Occurs as a persistent turf weed in Noble County. The species emits a disagreeable odor that is particularly objectionable when it is tramped upon or mowed. The identification was verified by J. K. Small, of the New York Botanical Garden.

Wood Sage—*Teucrium canadense* L. Although not new in Indiana, this species is ordinarily described as occurring in moist thickets, marshes and low ground. It has been observed a number of times as a persistent and troublesome field weed in well-drained land, notably in Carroll and Wabash counties. It possesses a creeping rootstock that is readily broken into small pieces capable of starting new patches.

Miscellaneous—Prairie mimosa, *Acuan illinoensis* (Michx.) Kuntze, was found growing naturally in Washington County.

Bermuda grass, *Cynodon dactylon* Pers. is occasionally a troublesome weed in the southern counties. W. H. Green, of Lebanon, sent a specimen of Bermuda grass with the notation that it is a serious pest in his garden with creeping, sharp-pointed roots that penetrate potatoes. Bermuda grass is one of the most troublesome of weeds in the sandy areas of our southern states.

On the W. C. Brandeberry farm near Hamilton, perennial sow thistle, *Sonchus arvensis* L. was introduced during 1923. In two years numerous patches have spread over an entire field, the total area of the patches being approximately one-eighth acre. The species seems to resist all efforts to exterminate it. This matter is of interest in view of the great damage caused by the perennial sow thistle in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota.