# Field crops weeds

A weed is an unwanted plant that grows in a crop without having been sown there. It can reduce yields by competing for resources (light, water, nutrients) intended for the crop, but also damage the quality of the harvested product or hinder harvesting.

Grasses or dicotyledons, annuals or perennials... there are as many types as there are plant species. Identifying the species that make up the flora of the plot is therefore the first step in choosing the weeding strategy to be implemented.

**After identifying the present species, the following questions need to be asked:**
- Do these species have an impact on yield? Do they cause problems during harvesting or lead to a loss of product quality?
- What agronomic measures should be put in place to prevent their emergence in the next crop?
- Are they easy to destroy during cultivation?

For an easy answer, refer to the table listing these characteristics for most European weeds on the following two pages.

| | Weed species | Impact of weeds on crops | | | Effectiveness of agronomic levers | | | | Curative control | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Harvesting hindrance | Competition: Loss of yield | Quality degradation | Crop rotation | Periodic poughing | Stubble cultivation and stale seedbed | Delay sowing dates | Herbicide effectiveness | Mechanical weeding effectiveness |
| Annual grasses | Common windgrass (Apera spica-venti) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Brome grasses (field/sterile) (Bromus spp.) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Crabgrass (Digitaria sanguinalis) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Common wild oats (Avena fatua and avena sterilis) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cockspur grass (Echinochloa crus-galli) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Annual meadow grass (Poa annua) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Ryegrass (Lolium spp.) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Black-grass (Alopecurus myosuroides) | | | | | | | | | |
| Perennial | Field thistle (Cirsium arvense) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Couch grass (Elymus repens) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Rough / field milk thistle (Sonchus) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Hedge bindweed (Calystegia sepium) | | | | | | | | | |
| Annual dicotyledons | Red-root amaranth (Amaranthus retroflexus) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Common ragweed (Ambrosia artemisiifolia) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Bishop's flower / Umbellifers (Ammi majus) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cornflower (Centaurea cyanus) | | | | | | | | | |

Table captions:

- Little impact on crop / Good effectiveness of the lever
- Average impact on crop / Average or inconsistent effectiveness of the lever
- Significant risks for the crop / Insufficient effectiveness of the lever
- Very significant damage to crop / No effectiveness, inappropriate method

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| Annual dicotyledons | Shepherd's purse (Capsella bursa-pastoris) | | | | | | | | | |
| | White goosefoot (Chenopodium album) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Common poppy (Papaver rhoeas) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Jimsonweed (Datura stramonium) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Common fumitory (Fumaria officinalis) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cleavers (Galium aparine) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Geranium | | | | | | | | | |
| | Common cocklebur (Xanthium) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Mayweed / Chamomile (Matricaria / Anthemis) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Annual mercury (Mercurialis annua) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Black nightshade (Solanum nigrum) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Field mustard and wild radish (Sinapis arvensis / Raphanus raphanistrum) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Black bindweed / Common knotgrass (Fallopia convolvulus, Polygonum aviculare) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Lady's thumb (Persicaria maculosa) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Groundsel (Senecio vulgaris) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Speedwell / ivy-leaved speedwell (Veronica hederifolia, arvensis) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Common field speedwell (Veronica persica) | | | | | | | | | |

Sources:
Arvalis - Institut du végétal Guide adventices, Chambre d'Agriculture de Nouvelle-Aquitaine. 2016. Infloweb.fr 20 fiches adventices assorties de moyens de lutte, Perspectives agricoles n°341, 2008

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