

Isanti County Noxious Weed Top Ten “Neighborhood Watch List”

1. **COMMON BARBERRY**: This plant was added in 2017 to the Control List and has yet to be found and considered invasive in woodland habitat, right of ways, or native environments. It was native to Asia has widely naturalized across Europe.
2. **PALMER AMARANTH**: Extremely invasive annual pigweed that has developed resistance to multiple classes of herbicides. Looks similar to the native pigweed tall water hemp, but has whitish V-shaped markings on leaves and can significantly reduce corn and soybean yields. On the [Eradicate List](#). Has not been located in our immediate surrounding counties, but has in SW and NW MN.
3. **ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET**: Deciduous vine growing up to 66’ tall which will girdle and smother native trees and shrubs. Similar to native American Bittersweet, but has distinctive bright red fruits with a yellow capsule at maturity. On the [Eradicate List](#). Has been located in Chisago, Anoka County, and throughout the Twin Cities area.
4. **MEADOW KNAPWEED**: Perennial plant w/multiple upright reddish stems and flowering mostly pink/purple and has basal leaves that can be up to 4” long. Similar to Spotted knapweed, but has wider lance shaped pubescent leaves. Will invade sunny wet sites like wet meadows, riparian areas, roadsides, and forest openings. On the [Eradicate List](#). Has been located in Pine County.
5. **COMMON & CUTLEAF TEASELS**: Perennial that invades open sunny habitats like roadsides, prairies, savannas, sedge meadows. Prolific seed producers, but most seed falls near existing plants; so early eradication is critical to decrease populations. Will produce seed on short stalks after mowing. On the [Eradicate List](#). Both have been located in Washington County and Twin Cities.
6. **GRECIAN FOXGLOVE**: Perennial plant forming a rosette its first year which bolts to a 2-5’ creamy white to pale yellow flower stalks w/brownish-purple venation inside in year 2 of life cycle. Blooms in summer followed by producing oval seed pods. Will only reproduce from seed. On the [Eradicate List](#). Located in Washington County and portions of St. Croix River Valley.
7. **JAPANESE HOPS**: Aggressive herbaceous annual vines growing up to 35’ in a single season. Invades woodlots, riparian habitats, and unmanaged river valley habitat. Will smother and choke out shrubs and understory trees it covers. Similar to common hops. On the [Eradicate List](#). Located in Sterling Barrens State Natural Area in Polk County, WI and SE MN.
8. **GARLIC MUSTARD**: Early season biennial herb with coarsely toothed triangular or heart shaped leaves that emits a strong garlic odor when crushed. Reproduces by seed. Control not required by law, but cannot be sold or transported unless in compliance with [Minnesota Statute 18.82](#). Landowners are strongly encouraged to manage these invasive plants on their properties and native habitats. Highly invasive and detrimental to forest understory. It is on the [Restricted List](#).
9. **BLACK SWALLOWWORT**: Herbaceous perennial vine in the milkweed family that has twining stems up to 6’ long w/ dark green, glossy foliage. Flowers are purple with a yellow center, are star shaped, and about 1/8-1/4” in size. It has a typical 2-2.5” milkweed pod when mature. On the [Eradicate List](#). Found in Chisago and Ramsey County.
10. **POISON HEMLOCK**: **Highly poisonous to humans and livestock.** Biennial herbaceous plant growing up to 8’ tall with hollow, hairless, ridge stems with purple spots. Leaves are pinnately compound and fernlike. Invades streambanks, pastures, ditches and transitional habitats. On the [Eradicate List](#). Located in Ramsey and Hennepin County.

Several of these plants could be in Isanti County but have not been reported to Minnesota Department of Agriculture or the County. Residents are encouraged to contact the County Ag. Inspector if they have concerns of certain plant infestations, especially ones posing threats to humans, livestock, or public lands.



Fig. 1-Common Barberry seed head, leaf and branch end.



Fig. 2-Palmer Amaranth seedling



Fig. 3-Oriental Bittersweet fall fruit



Fig. 4-Meadow Knapweed flower



Fig. 5-Common Teasel flower and stalk



Fig. 6-Cutleaf Teasel leaf arrangement



Fig. 7-Grecian Foxglove flower in bolting stage



Fig. 8-Garlic Mustard leaves



Fig. 9-Japanese Hops young vine and leaves-WI DNR



Fig. 10-Black Swallow-wort leaves and seed pods



Fig. 11-Poison Hemlock young plant

*Photos were obtained directly from [MDA website](#), [WI DNR](#), or [EddMaps](#) County Ag. Inspector verified reports.



ISANTI COUNTY AGRICULTURE INSPECTOR OUTREACH