

# Guide to Common Weeds Found on Nova Scotia Christmas Tree Lots



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# **HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

This CTCNS Guide is an alphabetical listing of the most common weeds found on Nova Scotia Christmas Tree tree lots.

For your convenience use the images and the descriptions to identify these common weeds and determine cultural control methods.

When in doubt, to confirm weed identity, use the resource website links included on each page and also on the Additional Resources page.

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IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
	Common Vetch Vicia sativa L.	Climbing legume with smooth stems and leaves. Can grow up to 2 m. Leaves are compound with leaflets arranged opposite on the petiole. Flowers emerge from leaf axil and are purple – blue in color. Pods develop after	Remove before vetch climbs into the crowns of trees. Repeated cutting/mowing to reduce seed dispersal.
A		flowers and contain seeds.	HABIT
		Photos sourced from: A - https://hgic.clemson.edu/narrowleaf-vetch-comr B- http://www.luontoportti.com/suomi/en/kukkakas	
В			

NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
lemp Nettle Faleopsis tetrahit L.	Square bristly stems, approximately 0.5 m in height. Opposite, hairy leaves that are toothed. Flowers develop in clusters between upper leaves. Flowers are pink-purple in color and are in bloom from July to August.	Repeated cutting will reduce spread by seed. Hand weeding is also an option but more labour intensive.
		HABIT
	Photo Sources:	Annual/Biennial
C	A- https://www.syngenta.ca/pests/weed/en/hempne B- https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/l C- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galeopsis_tetrahit	brittlestem-hemp-nettle
	•	imately 0.5 m in height. Opposite, hairy leaves that are toothed. Flowers develop in clusters between upper leaves. Flowers are pink-purple in color and are in bloom from July to August.  Photo Sources:  A- https://www.syngenta.ca/pests/weed/en/hempneB- https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/C- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galeopsis_tetrahit



Lambs Quarters

Chenopodium album

В



C

Reproduces by seed only. Lance shaped/triangular leaves are arranged alternate and are slightly toothed. Leaves often green/ silver in appearance. Can grow over 1 m in height. Flowers are green, composed of sepals, and measure 1-1.5 mm in diameter. Flowers grow in dense clusters at the apex of the stem. In flower from June to August. Lambs quarters can dominate disrupted areas and can invade fields and open forest.

Repeated mowing helps reduce spread by seed.

**HABIT** 

Annual/Biennial

#### Photo Sources:

A- https://www.sciencesource.com/archive/Lambsquarters-Seedling-SS2515073.html B- https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/weeds/can-you-eat-lambsquarters.htm

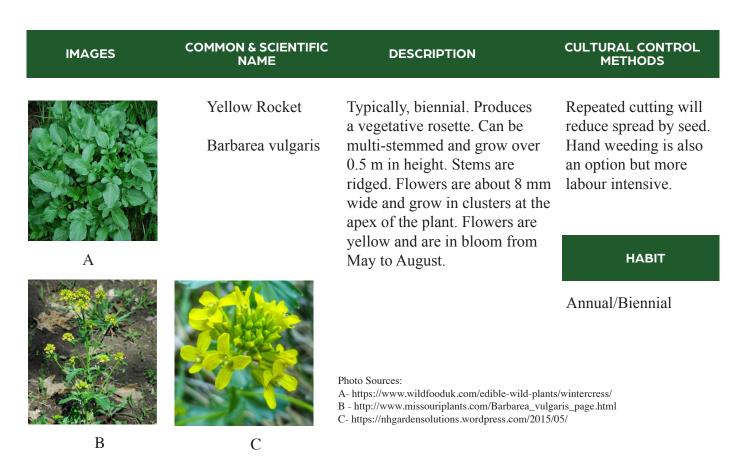
C- https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Cirsium\_vul-

- C https://forageforhealth.wordpress.com/season/summer/lambs- quarters/

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
	Thistle Cirsium spp.	Considered annual or biennial, can grow over 1 m in height. Lance-shaped, bristly, toothed leaves. Flowers are pink-purple in color and are 4-5 cm in size with spiked bracts. Thistles can	Hand weeding or repeated mowing will decrease vines climbing into tree crowns. Re- moval of plant before flowering can reduce
A		easily invade disturbed areas, such as roadsides, pastures and harvested tree lots.	spread by seed.
A		naivested tree lots.	
		Photos sourced from: A- https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/wegare_(Spear_Thistle).htm B - https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/cir	_

gare\_(Spear\_Thistle).htm

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
	Wild Buckwheat  Polygonum convolvulus L.	Vine-like growth can cling to surrounding vegetation for support. Arrowhead shaped leaves with alternate arrangement on stem. Reproduces by seed. Flowers are green/ white in color with sepals only. In flower from July to August.	Hand weeding or repeated mowing will decrease vines climbing into tree crowns. Removal of plant before flowering can reduce spread by seed.
A		nom vary to riaguot.	HABIT
		Photo Sources: A -https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/wild-buck B - https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/taxa/91800 C - https://www.florafinder.org/Species/Polygonur	•
В	C		





В

Common Burdock
Arctium spp.

C



This is a biennial plant that can grow over 1 m in height. The leaves are very large and can grow up to 50 cm in length and 30 cm in width. The undersides of the leaves are hairy. Flowers form along the stem and form in clusters. This plant blooms from July to September. The seeds are encased in a bur that can cling to animals and close. Grows in lower elevations, roadsides, grasslands, and open forest.

Hand pulling the plant will kill the plant if at the rosette stage. Repeat cutting will reduce spread by seed.

#### **HABIT**

**Biennial** 

Photo Sources:

- A https://nyc.books.plantsofsuburbia.com/arctium-minuscommon-burdockasteraceae/
- B https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctium\_lappa
- C https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/common-burdock

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
	Tansy Ragwort Senecio jacobaea	A biennial weed, tansy ragwort can grow up to 1 m in height. It has bright yellow flowers that resemble daisy's, that have 10 ray flowers that surround a disk flower. Flowers create a flat-top. Rosette formed in the first year. Leaves on second year growth	Remove plants before they go to seed. Re- peated mowing or hand weeding.
A		are arranged alternate, appear ruffed with deep lobes. Found on roadsides, railbeds, pastures,	HABIT
		harvested forest land. Prefers full sun and well drained soils.	Biennial
		Photo Sources: A- https://fviss.ca/invasive-plant/tansy-ragwort B- https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/tansy-ragwort C- https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environm/weed-identification/tansy-ragwort.aspx	
В	C	weed-identification/tailsy-ragwort.aspx	

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
A	Bunchberry Cornus canadensis	Low growing perennial species. The approximately 10 cm stalk is topped by a whorl of leaves. Leaves have smooth edges with distinct veins. Flowers are regular and white with 4 petals. Red berries later in the season. Can grow in shade, partial shade and full sun.	Repeated mowing to reduce flowering reproductive structures
		Photo Sources: A - https://macphailwoods.org/nature-guides/wild B - https://newfoundland-labradorflora.ca/flora/dv	<u> </u>
В			

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
	Common Buttercup Ranunculus acris	Grows to a height of 0.5 m, smooth stems. Compound leaves, three lobed. Flowers are glossy yellow, with 5 petals. Prefers partial to full sun and grows on roadsides and pastures. Can also invade disturbed areas. Spreads by rhizomatous	Repeated mowing, tilling or ploughing. These activities deplete food reserves in under- ground structures.
A		growth.	HABIT
			Herbaceous Perennial
В		Photo Sources: A- https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plar B - https://pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspxLatinName=Rar C - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ranu	nunculus+acris



Dog Strangling Vine

Vincetoxicum rossicum

A



В



C

Photo Sources:

A-https://www.nny360.com/caterpillar-that-eats-dog-strangler-vineis-under-review/article\_7539bfff-2fd6-5ef0-9e15-caa64993d83c.html B - https://www.torontogardens.com/2012/05/warning-dog-stranglingvine-in-bloo.html/

C- https://www.ottawaeastcag.ca/2018/08/15/dog-strangling-vine-itsalive-and-well-in-ooe/

Herbaceous perennial introduced to Canada as a garden ornamental. Identified in Nova Scotia in 2020. Can reach a height of 0.5 - 2 m and has the ability to form dense mats and climb. Leaves are oppositely arranged, oblong and entire with a pointed tip. Leaf margins can be wavy. Flowers in June and July and grow in clusters of 5 to 20. Flowers maroon or red brown in color. 5 petals. Pod-like fruit emerge in July and August. Seed pods are green when immature, turn brown when mature. Pods split when fully mature, seeds disperse via wind.

Hand pulling/repeated cutting before seeds emerge. Cover cut areas with tarps to reduce reproduction.

#### **HABIT**

Herbaceous Perennial

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIF	IC PESCENTION	CULTURAL CONTROL
IMAGES	NAME	DESCRIPTION	METHODS
	Field Horsetail	Reproduces by spores and creeping rhizomes. No flowers	Repeated cutting, hand pulling.
	Equisetum arvense	or seeds. Grey shoots emerge in the spring, the apex of the stem holds a spore producing cone. Cones release spores in May. These first stems wither and die, and a second green hollow stem	
A		emerges. Branch whorls of 6-8 at each stem node. Occurs in soil with poor to good drainage,	HABIT
		roadsides, railbeds, fields, open forest.	Herbaceous Perennial
		Photo Sources: A - https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the B - https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-field-horsetail	1 —

## **COMMON & SCIENTIFIC CULTURAL CONTROL IMAGES DESCRIPTION** NAME **METHODS** Creeping herbaceous peren-Repeated mowing, tilling Goldenrod nial that spreads primarily by or ploughing. These activities deplete food underground rhizomes. Yellow Solidago spp. inflorescence and flowers from reserves in underground July-September. Can grow up to structures. 1 m. Preferred habitat includes; ditches, fields, open woodlands **HABIT** Herbaceous Perennial Photo Sources: A - https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/canada-goldenrod-solidago-canadensis B - https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/solidago/canadensis/ C - http://www.luontoportti.com/suomi/en/kukkakasvit/canada-goldenrod C В





Creeping Juniper

Juniperus horizontalis Moench

A



Hand pulling of seedlings. Repeated cutting over multiple years. Mature plans require pruning of stems and removal of roots to reduce spread. Cover cut areas with tarps to reduce reproduction.

**HABIT** 

Woody Perennial



Photo Sources:

- A- https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/juniperus/horizontalis
- B- https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-horizontalis

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
	Ground Juniper  Juniperus communis L.	Low growing woody shrub. Brown bark that sheds off in thin strips. Can thrive in poorer soil types. Needles are green but can have a silver tinge. Berries are blue and take 18 months to ripen.	Repeated cutting. Cover with tarps to smother from sunlight.
A			HABIT
		Photo Sources: A- https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/juniper B- https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/jun	C 3 1
В			

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
	Hardwood Species (includes, but not limited to; Maple, Birch, Oak, Aspen, Willow, Alder)	Cutting of hardwoods can induce coppicing. The remaining stump will send up multiple shoots.	Repeated cutting.
A	Acer spp., Betula spp., Quercus spp., Populus spp., Salix spp., Alnus spp		HABIT Woody perennial

Photos sourced from:

A-https://www.gardensillustrated.com/garden-advice/how-to/coppice-hazel-how-to-prune/pru

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
A	Multiflora Rose Rosa multiflora	with long arching canes. Can reach up to 4 m wide and 3 m tall. Canes are green to red in color, with stiff curved thorns. Pinnately compound leaflets that include 5-11 serrated ovate leaves. Leaflets arranged alternately Produces	Hand pulling/repeated cutting before seeds emerge. Mature plans require pruning of canes and removal of roots to reduce spread. Cover cut areas with tarps to reduce reproduction.
		pink in color with 5 petals. Flowers grow in clusters at the end of canes and emerge May through	HABIT
B		June. Fruit emerge in August. Rose hips are globular to ovate, 6 mm in diameter. Hips turn from green to red when mature, can persist on plant into winter months.	Woody Perennial
D			

Photo Sources: See Additional References page

## **COMMON & SCIENTIFIC** CULTURAL CONTROL **IMAGES DESCRIPTION METHODS NAME** Trailing shrub can grow up to Repeated cutting. Cover Trailing Blackberry lengths of 5 m. Woody, prickwith tarps to smother from sunlight. ly stems. Leaves are alternate, Rubus ursinus compound and have three leaflets. Leaves are double-sawtoothed. Flowers are white with 5 petals. Fruit is a drupelet, and globe shaped and black. **HABIT** Woody perennial Photo Sources: A - https://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/plants/593--rubus-ursinus

B - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubus\_ursinus

IMAGES	COMMON & SCIENTIFIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS
	Wild Rose Rosa spp.	Flowers are pale to deep pink and are in bloom from the end of June into July. Stems have thorns with compound leaves arranged alternatively around the stem. Rosehips develop later in the season and can be orange to red in color.	Repeated cutting. Cover with tarps to smother from sunlight.
A		to rea in color.	HABIT
			Woody perennial
		Photo Sources: A- http://www.nwplants.com/business/catalog/ros_woo.html B- https://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?enlarge=0000+0000+0708+1219 C- https://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?taxon=3112&clid=4707	
В	C		

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

If you are interested in learning more about the common weeds within this guide, please visit any of the sources used in its compilation:

https://www.dal.ca/sites/wild-blueberry/publications/fact\_sheets/weeds.html

https://www.inspection.gc.ca/plant-health/seeds/seed-testing-and-grading/seeds-identification/barbarea-spp-/eng/1473681958406/1473681958935

https://halifaxheritageseedlibrary.wordpress.com/wintercress-barbarea-vulgaris-2/

https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg\_raac3.pdf

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/fieldhorsetail.htm#des

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/lambs\_quarters.htm

https://www.canr.msu.edu/weeds/extension/common-lambsquarters

https://forageforhealth.wordpress.com/season/summer/lambs-quarters/

https://bcinvasives.ca/documents/Tansy\_Ragwort\_TIPS\_Final\_08\_06\_2014.pdf

### Multiflora Rose Photo Sources:

A-https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/multiflora-rose.aspx

B- https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/shrub/multiflora-rose

C- https://concordma.gov/787/Multiflora-Rose-Rosa-MultifloraSpecies/Polygonum\_convolvulus.php

NOTES