CSS 292 – Management of Turfgrass Weeds
Broadleaf Weed Traits

1. DANDELION (P) – *Taraxacum officinale*
   - Bright yellow flower, "puffball" seed carrier
   - Long jagged tooth leaves from a rosette
   - Long tap root
   - Looks like chicory as a rosette, but flowers are distinctly different
   - Everywhere there is soil

2. CHICORY (P) – *Cichorium intybus*
   - Bright blue/violet daisy-like flowers
   - Long jagged tooth leaves from a rosette
   - Long jagged tap root
   - Looks like dandelions, but flowers are distinctly different
   - Most popular roadside weed

3. CURLY DOCK (P) – *Rumex crispus*
   - Flowers are small greenish clusters at top of stem
   - Long lance shaped leaves with wavy edges (6-8" long)
   - Grows as a rosette, but may produce some stems
   - Long carrot-like taproot
   - Low maintenance turf

4. PERENNIAL SOWTHISTLE (P) – *Sonchus arvensis*
   - Long yellow/green leaves from a rosette with spikes on margins
   - Resembles curly dock, but less friendly
   - Low maintenance turf

5. BROADLEAF PLANTAIN (P) – *Plantago major*
   - Produces long (5-10") seed stalks from center of rosette
   - Leaves are oval and lie very flat
   - Will grow anywhere there is soil, and is shade tolerant

6. BUCKHORN PLANTAIN (P) – *Plantago lanceolata*
   - Produces seed stalks (2-3") from center of rosette with a small "foxtail" at tip
   - Long narrow leaves with prominent veins
   - Produces a long taproot
   - Will grow anywhere there is soil
7. GROUND IVY (P) – *Glechoma hederacea*
   One of the toughest weeds to control
   Produces small blue flowers on creeping stems
   Stems will root at the nodes
   Leaves are almost round with teeth
   Easily confused with henbit, mallow, and creeping speedwell
   Shady turf, but not limited to shade

8. HENBIT (A) – *Lamium amplexicaule*
   Pink/purple flowers
   Hairy rounded opposite leaves on long slender stems
   Leaves tend to clasp the stem
   Looks like speedwell and/or ground ivy to the untrained eye
   Needs fertile soil

9. COMMON MALLOW (A or B) – *Malva neglecta*
   Pink-white flowers in axil of main stems
   Rounded leaves with 5 indentations
   Leaves are opposite on main stem
   Spreading branches do not root at spots that touch the ground
   Produces a long tap root

10. CAROLINA GERANIUM (A, B or WA) – *Geranium carolinianum*
    Basal rosette; fibrous root system with shallow taproot
    Pink-to-purple flowers appear in 2’s at tip of shoot
    Palmately segmented leaves, individual segments are deeply lobed
    Reproduction by seed, plant does not persist after flowering

11. CREEPING SPEEDWELL (P) – *Veronica filiformis*
12. GERMANDER SPEEDWELL (P) – *Veronica chamaedrys*
    (Five-to-seven species in Michigan)
    Often used for ornamental ground cover
    Simple, opposite narrow leaves near base
    Slightly toothed alternate leaves on stem – germander leaves are elongated
    Blue, violet or white small flowers which turn to heart shaped seeds
    Fibrous root system and grows in rapidly spreading patches
    Very difficult to control

13. WILD STRAWBERRY (P) – *Fragaria vesca*
    Five rounded white petal in flowers
    Sharp toothed leaves are in groups of three
    Produces many stolons
    Stems and leaves are very hairy
    Low maintenance turf
14. RED SORREL (P) – *Rumex acetosella*

Low growing creeper producing several stems from one crown
Leaves are arrow-shaped and thick (2-3" long)
Yellow and red flowers at end of stems
Likes acidic and low fertility soils
Extensive fibrous root system
New plants generated from creeping stems
Often confused with field bindweed
Difficult to control

15. FIELD BINDWEED (P) – *Convolvulus arvensis*

Creeping (Vine-like) growth habit that roots as often as possible
Very extensive root system
Leaves are arrow shaped, but extremely variable
Often confused with Red Sorrel which will not creep nearly as far
Funnel shaped, white and pink flowers
Low maintenance areas
Difficult to control – aggressive landscape weed

16. WILD VIOLET (P) – *Viola spp.*

Produces blue, violet, white or off-white flowers
Heart shaped leaves that cup towards petiole
Dense, fibrous roots
Likes shady, fertile, moist soil
Difficult to control

17. CANADA THISTLE (P) – *Cirsium arvense*

Very spiked, long narrow leaves
Can grow to five feet tall in unmowed areas
Purplish flowers grow in clusters and they are 3/4" in diameter
Low maintenance turf

18. BULL THISTLE (B) – *Cirsium vulgare*

Bushy clump of hairy and spiked leaves
Produces large purple blossom if not mowed
The one you stepped on when younger
Roadsides and low maintenance areas

19. YARROW (P) – *Achillea millefolium*

Very thin, fern like leaves that alternate on stem
Can reach more than 1' tall
Stems are droopy
Usually grows on patches, but has tap roots
Low maintenance areas
Sometimes confused with wild carrot
20. WILD CARROT (B) – *Daucus carota*
   - Leaves are very thin and alternate with a carrot-like odor
   - Leaves are not as numerous as those of yarrow
   - Produces white flowers in clusters on large stalks
   - Aggressive taproot
   - Second most popular weed on Midwestern roadsides

21. HEAL ALL (P) – *Prunella vulgaris*
   - Leaves are oval, opposite and only slightly notched at margins with long petioles
   - Leaf surfaces resemble sear-sucker fabric, covered with short hairs
   - Produces violet or blue flowers on leafless stalks
   - Creeping, low growth habit
   - Popular in turf mowed at 2"

22. ENGLISH DAISY (P) – *Bellis perennis*
   - Short spatula shaped leaves do not elongate
   - Basal leaves may be round to ovate
   - Flower heads are daisy-like and white to pinkish
   - Rosettes form low dense mat
   - Spreads by seed and rhizomes
   - Flowers on leafless stalk

23. ORANGE HAWKWEED (P) – *Hieracium aurantiacum*
   - Long spatula shaped leaves with dense hairs and can reach 10" long
   - Grows mostly as a rosette but can produce stems
   - Yellow flowers on long stalk
   - Low maintenance turf and only in cool regions

24. COMMON CHICKWEED (A) – *Stellaria media*
   - Leaves are small ovals but pointed (spades)
   - Star shaped blossoms
   - Leaves are less than 1/2" long
   - Very low growing (often in shade, mulch skirts of trees)
   - Poorly developed root system, prefers frequent moisture

25. MOUSEEAR CHICKWEED (P) – *Cerastium vulgatum*
   - Small elliptical leaves are densely hairy
   - Weakly creeping growth habit
   - Invader of very close mowing heights (<5/32)
26. CLOVER (P) – *Trifolium repens*
   - Three dark-green leaflets with prominent veins
   - White blossoms
   - Often confused with Black Medic and Yellow Woodsorrel
   - Center leaf has almost no petioliole, unlike black medic
   - Roots form from nodes of stems
   - Both clover and black medic may have a notch at top of leaflets
   - Woodsorrel leaves are more heart-shaped and folded
   - Favors lower fertility soils everywhere

27. BLACK MEDIC (A,B,P) – *Medicago lupulina*
   - Three dark-green leaflets with very prominent veins
   - Leaflets often notched at top
   - Bright yellow flower clusters
   - Deep taproot
   - Middle leaflet has separate petioliole (less than 1/8" long)
   - Often grows in mixed stand with clover

28. YELLOW WOODSORREL [Oxalis] (A) – *Oxalis stricta*
   - 3-leaflets like clover and black medic
   - Heart-shaped leaves often creased at mid vein
   - Bright yellow flowers with 5 petals
   - Shallow taproot
   - Likes dry, low maintenance soils
   - Hard to control – late germinating summer annual

29. COMMON LAMBSQUARTERS (A) – *Chenopodium album*
   - Rhombic-to-egg-shaped leaves
   - Leaves have a gray-milky coating
   - Upright growth habit, does not persist with consistent mowing
   - Short, branched taproot – favors recently cultivated soils

30. REDROOT PIGWEED (A) – *Amaranthus retroflexus*
31. PROSTRATE PIGWEED (A) – *Amaranthus blitodes*
   - Leaves are spear-shaped and covered with dense hairs
   - Red and/or light green stripe runs all the way down the stem
   - Redroot flowers primarily at the top of the shoot
   - Prostrate flower in the axil at each node
   - Redroot: individual upright plants, prostrate: spreading patches in an area
   - Very low maintenance turf – does not tolerate consistent mowing
32. COMMON PURSLANE (A) – *Portucula oleracea*
   - Thick, succulent reddish stems, forms thick mats
   - Leaves are thick and fleshy (waxy) resembling a jade plant
   - Difficult to control with herbicides – well developed cuticle
   - Frequent new establishments with recently cultivated soil
   - Tolerates droughty conditions very well, bright yellow flower

33. YELLOW ROCKET (A,B,P) – *Barbarea vulgaris*
   - Large leaves in rosette, particularly rounded at the ends
   - Deeply lobes at base of leaves
   - Yellow flowers at end of stalk
   - Produces a taproot
   - Low maintenance areas

34. SHEPARDSPURSE (A or WA) – *Capsella bursa-pastoris*
   - Leaves in rosette, usually thinner and more rounded lobes than dandelion
   - Produces seed stalks with heart shaped seed capsules
   - Small white flowers
   - Arrow shaped leaves on stems emerging from the rosette
   - Temporary problem in newly seeded turf

35. PROSTRATE KNOTWEED (A) – *Polygonum aviculare*
   - Produces a mat of stems from one central taproot
   - Dull, blue-green leaves
   - Leaves are very small but numerous
   - Likes compacted soils like along driveways, sidewalks and heavily trafficked paths (goal mouths)

36. PROSTRATE SPURGE (A) – *Euphorbia supina*
   - Leaves opposite shiny
   - Forms sprawling mats – prefers thin turf and mulched areas
   - Stems exude milky latex when broken
   - Hard to control due to late germination (spring-applied post often applied before germination, summer-applied post misses due to lack of absorption and metabolism)