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Research article

A survey of weeds that are increasingly spreading in Europe

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Abstract – A Europe-wide survey was conducted by sending questionnaires to weed scientists in order to evaluate currently troublesome weeds and those which may cause problems in the future. Recipients were asked to list species that are spreading and cause problems in agroecosystems, and to rate these according to three scores (degree of weediness, degree of spread potential, and degree of control success), with three levels for each score (low, medium and high). In total, 281 species were reported from 26 European countries. Most of them were annuals (48%), followed by perennials (34%) and biennials (14%). There were significant differences in weed scores among these life forms. Weed scores were unrelated to each other, implying that they have different meanings with respect to the biology of the species. Weed scores did not correlate with European range size, implying that they indicate the weediness of the species independently of the geographical distribution and can be used to prioritize weed species for management.

noxious weed lists / risk assessment / surveys / weediness / weed control

1. INTRODUCTION

The increasing number of non-native plant species in most regions is a major component of global change [26] and includes both the spread of exotic species into natural environments and the spread of weeds in agroecosystems. Weed communities of arable land may change rapidly over time and vary among different regions. Within the last few decades, a general decline in weed species has been observed in parts of Europe, mostly as a result of increased fertilization and effective control [1, 4]. This decline has mostly affected species of arable land that are a valuable component of biodiversity, some native weeds being endangered species and thus having a high conservation value [15, 25]. However, it has also been observed that certain species are increasing in abundance, including species that are difficult to control and causing extensive weed problems [1]. For any country, new plant species may originate by naturalization of intentionally introduced species, by the onset of the spread of already present species, by natural immigration of species that expand their range, or by unintentional introduction of species from abroad. The latter include species from other continents and from other countries on the same continent.

Changes in the composition of weed floras are associated with many factors and their interactions, including ecological traits of the species involved and the recipient habitats, and patterns of land-use change. Among the factors that may promote the establishment of new weed species are the evolution of herbicide resistance [23], increasing extensivation and extension of late spring-seeded field crops [2], reduction of early-emerging weeds due to herbicide control, favoring late-emerging and competitively strong weeds [22], and climatic change, leading to the range expansion of weeds from warmer climates [18]. In Germany, the observed changes in the weed flora during the last few decades were attributed to changes in arable farming practice, including fertilizing, the use of more competitive crops, enhanced weed control, modifications in sowing technique, and purification of seed [1].

Climate change, land-use change, and the increasing international trade is likely increasing the number of new weed species in European countries. An important objective of noxious weed management is to reduce the spread of serious weeds and to prevent their introduction from adjacent geographic areas. Weeds are dispersed by various agents, but human activity is probably the most important one [17]. Therefore, it is essential to assess which weed species are problematic and to set priorities with regard to developing weed management strategies. In order to prevent new weed problems, the following steps are necessary [28, 30]: (1) identification of foreign weeds that could cause problems by performing weed risk assessments, (2) early detection of infestations if the species is already established, (3) assessment of the invader's noxious potential, and (4) implementation of the necessary measures to control or eradicate new weed species. Performing a weed risk assessment is common practice, for example, in New Zealand or Australia [3, 8, 16].

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In this paper, we present the results of a Europe-wide survey of troublesome weed species in various agroecosystems. Our aim was to evaluate currently problematic weed species or those that could potentially cause new weed problems within arable lands of Europe, and to assess their weediness. The questions addressed were: (1) what are the most important current weed species in European agroecosystems? (2) how are these species rated by weed scientists? (3) how is the rating of the weeds related to their distribution?

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Weed survey

We conducted a Europe-wide survey by sending form sheets to leading weed scientists. Recipients were asked to provide species lists of weeds (1) that either generally show a tendency of increasing spread, or (2) have showed a rapid increase in infested areas within the last 20 years, (3) that are causing problems in agricultural habitats, or (4) species that have been present for a long time but recently have begun to spread, or (5) recently introduced and spreading species. In addition, recipients were asked to indicate the occurrence (presence/absence) of each of the species in the following agroecosystems: (1) fodder plants and pastures, (2) cereals, (3) grain legumes, (4) root crops, (5) vegetables and ornamentals, (6) orchards, (7) vineyards, and (8) other agricultural areas. The above definitions for the agroecosystems may differ from crop systems defined by weed scientists, but for the present large-scale survey, the form sheet was kept as simple as possible.

Each species could be rated by the recipients at three levels (low, medium and high) for three scores, representing different aspects of the biology of the weed and its control: (1) potential for further spread, (2) weediness (local abundance), and (3) success of control. For the sake of simplicity, no a priori distinctions for each agroecosystem were made. For the purpose of this study, the information that could be obtained is sufficient.

A database was created comprising all listed weed species with their respective occurrences in the agroecosystems and countries. We screened species for synonyms and tabulated them according to subsequent analyses. For a general description, the life forms and families were identified for each species. The range size in Europe was added to each species, and range size was expressed as the number of European countries where the species occurs. These data were taken from the *Flora Europaea* database (URL: http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/FE/fe.html).

2.2. Rating of species

For each species, the scores provided by the weed scientists were averaged in order to obtain a general rating for "spread potential", "weediness", and "control success", respectively. We then ranked the species according to the first two weed scores and listed the species with the highest rankings for each of the crop systems. The ranking was done as follows: first, species were ranked according to "spread potential". Within the highest values of this score, species were ranked according to "weediness". The fifteen species with the highest ranking were defined as the most troublesome weeds. The score for "control success" was not considered at this point since it reflects a different aspect of weediness, e.g. how easy a species is to control, but also the availability of control methods and the efforts put into weed control. The score for "control success" was used for subsequent analyses.

2.3. Relationships between distribution and weed scores

We used regression analyses in order to investigate the relationships among the three weed scores and between weed scores and geographic distribution. This shows, for example, whether species rated as serious weeds were also among the most widespread ones. Analysis of variance was used to test for differences in weed scores and geographic distribution among life forms.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Number of weed species

In total, 281 weed species were reported, comprising 176 genera and 48 families (Appendix 1). The absolute number of species for individual countries varied considerably, ranging from 5 to 100. The mean number of species per crop system ranged from 1.4 to 12.5 (Tab. I), and high values were apparent in countries in Eastern Europe, e.g., Romania, Poland and Bulgaria (Tab. I).

The largest families were the Asteraceae (61 species), Poaceae (55), Brassicaceae (15), Polygonaceae (14) and Apiaceae (11). The most significant genera were *Amaranthus*, *Bromus* and *Rumex* with seven species each. The species:family ratio was 6.2, the species:genera ratio 1.6.

Although many of the weeds were annuals, the species reported formed an ecologically diverse group comprising all life forms (Tab. II). Herbaceous perennials made up 32.5% of all species. The distribution of life forms among crop systems varied: annuals were predominant in cereals, perennials in cereals and orchards (Tab. III), although differences among crop systems were not pronounced. The number of weed species reported for different crop systems was rather high, with most weeds occurring in cereals, and vegetables and ornamentals (Tab. III).

3.2. Variation of weed scores

Most species obtained intermediate scores (Fig. 1), and the relative fraction of annuals and perennials, respectively, differed among classes of scores. There were more perennials with high scores for weediness than annuals. Perennials generally obtained low scores for control success (Fig. 1). The three life forms, annuals, biennials and perennials, differed significantly with respect to the mean score for spread potential and the mean score for control success (Tab. IV). There were no differences in the number of countries for which the species was listed, and for European range size (Tab. IV).

Pronounced differences in scores were apparent among crop systems, as well as among life forms (Fig. 2). Generally, weeds

	Species	Mean No. of species
	per country	per crop system
Country		
Albania	42	6.0
Austria	21	5.3
British Isles	28	3.5
Bulgaria	44	6.3
Czech Republic	5	2.5
Cyprus	21	2.6
Denmark	7	1.4
Finland	17	2.8
France	20	4.0
Germany	42	5.3
Greece	7	1.4
Hungary	39	4.9
Ireland	6	2.0
Italy	41	5.1
Lithuania	23	3.8
Netherlands	21	3.0
Norway	15	2.1
Poland	53	8.8
Portugal	43	5.4
Romania	100	12.5
Slovakia	29	3.6
Spain	45	5.6
Sweden	17	2.4
Turkey	27	3.9
Yugoslavia ¹	53	6.6
Ukraine	23	3.8

Table I. Number of weed species with a high spread potential reported for 26 European countries in a questionnaire.

¹ Slovenia and Croatia.

of orchards and vineyards obtained higher scores than weeds of the other crop systems. The difficulty of controlling perennial weeds is clearly seen by their low scores for control success, whereas annuals and biennials obtained higher scores (Fig. 2).

3.3. Weed rankings for individual culture systems

The fifteen weed species with the highest rankings for spread potential and weediness were often the same, but differences

Table II. Life form distribution of weed species with a high spread potential as obtained by a Europe-wide survey.

Life form	Ν	%
Annuals	135	48.4
Hemicryptophytes	65	23.3
Biennials	39	14.0
Geophytes	30	10.8
Aquatic plants	3	1.1
Nanophanerophytes	4	1.4
Chamaephytes	2	0.7
Vines	1	0.4

among culture systems were apparent. The species are listed in Table V. The lists contain numerous alien plants.

3.4. Relationships of weed scores to each other

The three weed scores exhibited only weak relationships to each other (Fig. 3). Mean score for spread potential significantly correlated with mean score for weediness (regression analysis: $r^2 = 0.23$, P < 0.001), and mean score for spread potential significantly correlated with mean score for control success (regression analysis: $r^2 = 0.01$, P = 0.034). The variation, however, was large, as was the overlap of life forms (Fig. 3).

3.5. Relationships of weed scores to range size and crop systems

Range size in Europe significantly correlated with mean score for spread potential (regression analysis: $r^2 = 0.03$, P = 0.002) but the relationship was weak (Fig. 4). There was no relationship between European range size and mean score for weediness or mean score for control success (Fig. 4).

The number of countries for which a weed was listed significantly correlated with European range size (regression analysis: $r^2 = 0.10$, P < 0.001), but again, the relationship was weak. There was also only a weak relationship between number of crop systems per species and range size (regression analysis: $r^2 = 0.13$, P < 0.001). Ranking the weeds according to their range size in Europe and relating them to the number of countries from which the species was reported as a weed reveals a sharp discrepancy between range size and number of countries (Fig. 5). Most of the weeds have a range that is larger than the range where they are perceived as weeds.

Table III. Number of weed species with a high spread potential in different crop systems as obtained by a Europe-wide survey.

		Life form		Perennial	
Crop system	Ν	Annual	Biennial		
Fodder plants and pastures	140	61	20	52	
Cereals	186	103	21	55	
Grain legumes	128	81	14	30	
Root crops	140	81	22	34	
Vegetables and ornamentals	157	84	23	45	
Orchards	152	73	20	53	
Vineyards	119	67	14	34	
Other agricultural areas	36	14	4	15	

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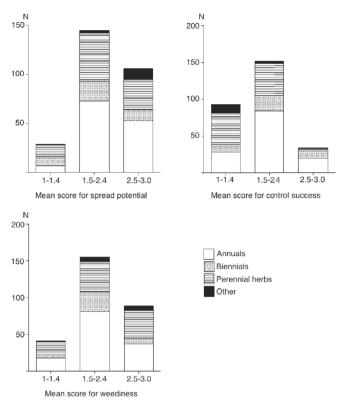


Figure 1. Histograms showing the number of weed species in classes of three different weed scores, according to perennation of the species. Data were obtained by a Europe-wide survey.

4. DISCUSSION

Surveys and assessing noxious weed lists are useful tools for policy-making and weed legislation, and have been compiled for various regions and purposes [5, 6, 11, 17, 21, 24]. The present weed survey cannot be assumed to be extensive and complete, especially since the number of species listed per country varies greatly. Therefore no attempts were made to conduct detailed analyses of patterns of geographic distribution of individual species within Europe and among countries. However, for the purpose of general analyses with regard to variation in weed scores and number of weeds in different crop systems, the species obtained represent a sufficient sample size.

One aim of this survey was to obtain basic information on current weed problems in European countries and to evaluate species that could increase in their significance as weeds in the future. Assessments of problem species are often made by asking experts [5, 6] and such a direct approach may give meaningful results for the management of weeds. Whereas extensive field studies would be necessary to quantify the abundance and diversity of weeds, a survey is a fast and inexpensive approach allowing one to cover a large area.

The species list obtained (see Appendix 1) is rather extensive and demonstrates that weeds are still a significant problem in European agriculture. Several authors have pointed out that weed floras have changed rapidly within the last few decades

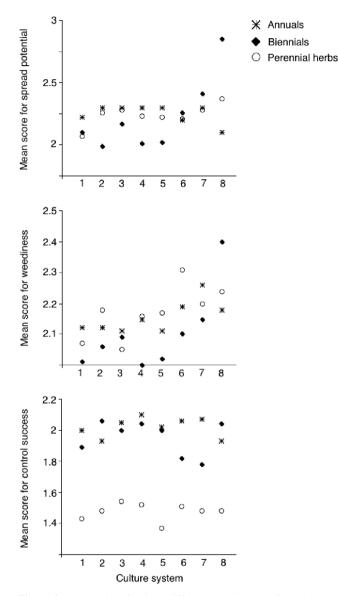


Figure 2. Mean values for three different weed scores of weed species occurring in different crop systems. Data were obtained by a Europewide survey. Crop systems: (1) fodder plants and pastures, (2) cereals, (3) grain legumes, (4) root crops, (5) vegetables and ornamentals, (6) orchards, (7) vineyards, and (8) other agricultural areas.

Table IV. Test for differences in weed scores and geographic distribution among three life forms of European weeds. Table entries are analysis of variance results. Minimum, mean and maximum scores refer to values within species.

Character	F-value	P-value
Score for spread potential	3.9	0.020*
Score for weediness	0.51	0.601
Score for control success	19.5	< 0.001***
Number of crop systems	6.0	0.003**
Number of countries listed	2.8	0.064
European range size (No. of countries)	2.2	0.116

Table V. Troublesome weed species in different culture systems as revealed by a Europe-wide survey. For each culture system, the fifteen most significant weed species are listed. For explanations, see text. * indicates that the species is alien to Europe.

Fodder plants and pastures			
Amaranthus powellii *	Hordeum murinum	Poa trivialis	
Amsinckia micrantha *	Lathyrus tuberosus	Ranunculus acris	
Cuscuta epithymum	Malva silvestris	Silene aegyptica	
Duchesnea indica *	Phlomis fruticosa	Veronica persica *	
Erigeron annuus *	Poa palustris	Xanthium italicum *	
Cereals			
Acroptilon repens	Holcus mollis	Poa palustris	
Alisma plantago-aquatica	Lathyrus tuberosus	Poa trivialis	
Amaranthus paniculatus *	Lotus tenuis	Scirpus mucronatus	
Conyza bonariensis *	Malva silvestris	Silene aegyptica	
Diplachne fascicularis	Oryza sativa *	Vicia villosa	
Grain legumes			
Amaranthus powellii *	Conyza bonariensis *	Sicyos angulatus *	
Amsinckia micrantha *	Erigeron annuus *	Silene aegyptica	
Asclepias syriaca *	Lactuca saligna	Sorghum nigrum *	
Chenopodium ficifolium	Matricaria matricarioides *	Veronica persica *	
Conyza albida *	Salsola kali	Xanthium italicum *	
Root crops			
Amaranthus paniculatus *	Erigeron annuus *	Silene aegyptica	
Amaranthus powellii *	Lactuca saligna	Sorghum bicolor *	
Chenopodium ficifolium	Lotus tenuis	Sorghum nigrum *	
Conyza albida *	Matricaria matricarioides *	Veronica persica *	
Conyza bonariensis *	Rubus caesius	Xanthium italicum *	
Vegetables and ornamentals			
Acroptilon repens	Hordeum murinum	Orobanche ramosa	
Amaranthus paniculatus *	Lactuca saligna	Silene aegyptica	
Amaranthus powellii *	Lotus tenuis	Solanum physalifolium *	
Chenopodium ficifolium	Malva silvestris	Veronica persica *	
Erigeron annuus *	Orobanche aegyptica	Xanthium italicum *	
Orchards			
Acroptilon repens	Heracleum mantegazzianum *	Lotus tenuis	
Amaranthus paniculatus *	Holcus mollis	Malva silvestris	
Conyza albida *	Hordeum murinum	Ranunculus acris	
Conyza bonariensis *	Lathyrus tuberosus	Silene aegyptica	
Euphorbia nutans *	Lavatera cretica	Vicia villosa	
Vineyards			
Acroptilon repens	Crepis aspera *	Malva silvestris	
Amaranthus chlorostachys *	Holcus mollis	Salsola kali	
Amaranthus paniculatus *	Hordeum murinum	Silene aegyptica	
Conyza bonariensis *	Lathyrus tuberosus	Veronica persica *	
Conyza sumatrensis *	Lotus tenuis	Vicia villosa	

due to land use and environmental changes [1, 4, 7, 9, 22]. Besides a decline in species number, these changes also included the appearance of new weeds. Large-scale surveys of weed floras are necessary to recognize potential new weeds for a region and to allow predictions of their impact. Plant species may become serious weeds due to a change in cultural practices, although the same changes can lead to a decrease of other species [14, 19]. New weeds may arise through immigration of expanding species or the beginning of spread of already present species.

The most significant weed species identified in this study in terms of their distribution are mostly the same as found by [23] and [10], with the exception of *Abutilon theophrasti*, *Sinapis arvensis*, *Sorghum halepense*, and some other species with a small geographic distribution. Despite a substantial variation in the number of species reported for each country, a high concentration of weed species was apparent in countries bordering the Mediterranean sea and in Eastern Europe. Weed management in Eastern Europe is generally less extensive than in Western Europe, leading to species-rich weed floras. The decline in Annuals

Biennials

Perennial herbs

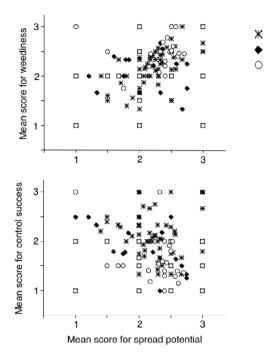


Figure 3. Relationships among three different weed scores applied to weed species of Europe. Data were obtained in a Europe-wide survey.

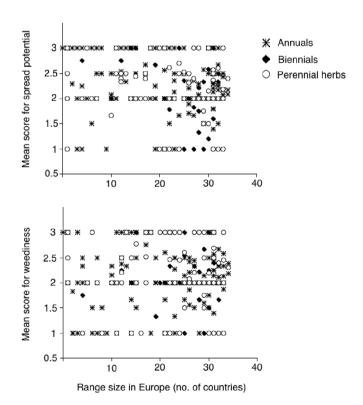
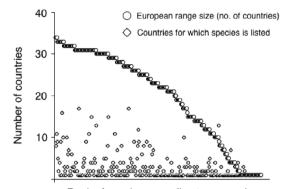


Figure 4. Relationships between weed scores and the range size in Europe. Range size is expressed as the number of countries in which the species occurs.



Rank of species according to range size

Figure 5. Rank of range size of weed species in Europe, with the number of countries in which the plant is perceived as a weed. Range size is expressed as the number of countries in which the species occurs.

species richness of arable land in these regions has not yet reached the levels of Western Europe. This is, for example, illustrated by *Agrostemma githago*, which was reported as a serious weed in Romania, but is almost extinct in Western Europe.

Whether a species is perceived as a weed or not varies from the point of view of the assessors [19, 29] but also depends on the geographic location, if the plant is a weed in one country but not in another. In this study, the weed scores given by experts were not or only weakly related to range size and number of crop systems infested, suggesting that these scores reflect at least partly some aspects of the weed's ecology and not just whether the species is widespread or not. The scores are most likely associated with the life-history of the species. The three different weed scores were only weakly related to each other, again implying that they have different meanings and are associated with different aspects of the species' biology. Scores for spread potential may be related to dispersal mechanisms, and scores for weediness to the competitive ability of the weed with the crop. The scores for control success may indicate the availability of tools to control the species, as well as the ability of the species to tolerate control measures.

Several authors have related the taxonomic position of a species (family, genus) to its likelihood to become invasive. Although such an approach may be difficult, it was found that some families are highly overrepresented by weed species or invasive plants compared with the global family size [13, 20, 27]. Mack [12] has emphasized that a species of a genus or family with weedy congeners is more likely to become a weed. Indeed, in this study, most species belong to the genera *Amaranthus*, *Bromus* and *Rumex*, which contribute many weed species worldwide. Considering the whole set of weeds reported, diversity was high, e.g., they were distributed among many families and genera. These results make generalizations with regard to weediness and taxonomic position difficult.

The discrepancy between range size in Europe and the number of countries for which the species was listed as a weed has important implications. First, it means that species that are weeds currently in a few countries only, could expand in the future and become weeds in further countries. Second, it implies that there is a large potential of increasing weed problems in European agriculture. However, there could also be a bias due to different points of view of the assessors. Further studies should aim at predicting the impact of the species obtained in this survey in various regions where they are not yet present. These species need to be monitored and their appearance in new countries must be observed with caution.

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Appendix 1. Weed species listed in a Europe-wide survey.

Species	Family	LF	SPR	WED	CON	Crop systems	Regions
Abutilon theophrastii *	Malvaceae	t	2.08	2.15	1.7	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	C, E, S
Achillea millefolium	Asteraceae	h	1.75	1.75	1.5	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	E
Acroptilon repens	Asteraceae	h	2.5	2.5	1	2, 5, 6, 7	S
Aethusa cynapium	Apiaceae	u	1.78	2.33	1.78	4, 5	C, E, N, S
Agropyron repens	Poaceae	g	2.48	2.48	1.91	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, N, S
Agrostemma githago	Caryophyllaceae	t	2	2	2	2	Е
Alisma plantago-aquatica	Alismataceae	а	3	3	1	2	S
Allium oleraceum	Liliaceae	g	2	1	1	1, 5, 6, 7, 8	Е
llium rotundum	Liliaceae	g	1	1	1	1	Е
lopecurus geniculatus	Poaceae	h	2.5	2	1	1, 2, 4, 5	Ν
lopecurus myosuroides	Poaceae	t	2.21	2.21	2.08	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	C, E, N, S
maranthus albus *	Amaranthaceae	t	1.67	2	2.33	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	E, S
maranthus blitoides *	Amaranthaceae	t	2	2	3	2, 3, 4, 5	E, S
maranthus chlorostachys *	Amaranthaceae	t	2	2.5	2.5	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Е
maranthus hybridus *	Amaranthaceae	t	2.5	2.5	2	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	S
maranthus paniculatus *	Amaranthaceae	t	3	3	2	2,4, 5, 6, 7	Е
maranthus powellii *	Amaranthaceae	t	3	2.5	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Е
maranthus retroflexus *	Amaranthaceae	t	2.33	2.42	2.05	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
mbrosia artemisiifolia *	Asteraceae	t	2.54	2.38	1.77	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
mmi majus	Apiaceae	t	2.33	2.33	1.67	2, 4, 5	S
msinckia micrantha *	Boraginaceae	t	3	2	3	1, 2, 3	Ν
msinckia sp. *	Boraginaceae	t	3	3	2	2	Ν
nagallis arvensis	Primulaceae	t	1.8	1.4	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, N, S
nchusa arvensis	Boraginaceae	u	1	1.5	1.5	3, 4, 5	C, E
nthemis arvensis	Asteraceae	t	1.8	2	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
nthemis austriaca	Asteraceae	u	2	2	2	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	<u>–, ~</u> Е
pera spica-venti	Poaceae	h	2.53	2.6	2	1, 2, 3, 4	– E, N, S
raujia sericifera *	Asclepiadaceae	р	1	2	1	6	S
rctium lappa	Asteraceae	Р h	2	3	1	2, 5, 6, 7, 8	Ē
rrhenatherum elatius	Poaceae	h	2	2	2	2	N
rtemisia absinthium	Asteraceae	c	2	2	1	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	E
rtemisia vulgaris	Asteraceae	h	2.4	2.2	1.4	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, N, S
sclepias syriaca *	Asclepiadaceae	g	3	1	1	2, 3, 4	E, IN, S E
ster squamatus *	Asteraceae	u	2.75	2.25	1.25	1, 6, 7	C, S
triplex patula	Chenopodiaceae	t u	2.75	2.25	1.25	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	C, 3 E, N
wena barbata	Poaceae	t	2.5	2	2	2, 6, 7	L, N S
vena fatua	Poaceae	t	2.57	2.14	2.14	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	S C, E, N, S
vena sterilis	Poaceae	t	2.27	2.14	2.14	2, 3, 6, 7	C, E, N, S S
Barbarea vulgaris	Brassicaceae	u	2.23	2.5	1	2, 3, 0, 7 1, 4	3 C, E, N
Bidens tripartita	Asteraceae	u t	2.33	2.07	1.57	2, 3, 4, 5	C, E, N C, S
sidens vulgata *	Asteraceae	t	-	2 1	3	2, 5, 4, 5 3, 4	С, S Е
lifora radians			- 2.5	1 2	3 1.75	3, 4 2	
lyora raalans cothriochloa ischaemum	Asteraceae Poaceae	t h		2 3			E, S E
		h	- 3		1	1	
Brassica napus	Brassicaceae	u		2	2	4	E
romus catharticus *	Poaceae	u	2	1	-	1, 5, 6	S
Bromus commutatus	Poaceae	t	2	2	1	2	N
Bromus diandrus	Poaceae	t	2	2	1.5	2, 6, 7	N, S
Bromus mollis	Poaceae	t	2.5	2.5	1.5	2, 3	N
Bromus rigidus	Poaceae	t	2	3	1	2	S

Species	Family	LF	SPR	WED	CON	Crop systems	Regions
Bromus secalinus	Poaceae	t	2	2	1	2, 3, 4, 7	C, N, S
Bromus sterilis	Poaceae	t	2.29	2.14	1.43	1, 2, 7	C, E, N
Calamagrostis epigejos	Poaceae	h	3	3	1.5	1, 6, 7, 8	E
Calystegia sepium	Convolvulaceae	g	2.4	2.2	1.8	2, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, S
Cannabis sativa	Cannabaceae	t	1	2	1	3, 4	E
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Brassicaceae	t	2.07	1.87	2.71	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, S
Cardamine hirsuta	Brassicaceae	t	2.67	2.33	1.33	2, 5, 6	C, S
Cardaria draba	Brassicaceae	h	2	2	2	2, 3, 6, 7	E
Carduus acanthoides	Asteraceae	h	1	1	2	1	E
Carduus nutans	Asteraceae	u	2	2	1	1, 5, 6, 7	E
Centaurea cyanus	Asteraceae	u	1.83	2.33	2.17	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Centaurea diluta	Asteraceae	h	2	3	2	2, 3, 4	S
Centaurea scabiosa	Asteraceae	h	2	2	1	1, 2, 5, 6	Е
Chamaemelum fuscatum	Asteraceae	t	2	2	2	2, 6, 7	S
Chamaemelum mixtum	Asteraceae	t	2	2	2	2, 6, 7	S
Chenopodium album	Chenopodiaceae	t	2.43	2.58	2.32	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,	8 C, E, N, S
Chenopodium ficifolium	Chenopodiaceae	t	3	2	3	2, 3, 4, 5	S
Chenopodium hybridum	Chenopodiaceae	t	1.5	2	2.5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Chenopodium polyspermum	Chenopodiaceae	t	2	1.5	2.5	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Shenopodium rubrum	Chenopodiaceae	t	-	2	3	3, 4, 5	Е
Sichorium intybus	Asteraceae	h	2	2	1	3	S
Sirsium arvense	Asteraceae	g	2.37	2.69	1.59	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,	8 C, E, N, S
Cirsium setosum	Asteraceae	g	1	1	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8	Е
Conium maculatum	Apiaceae	u	1.6	2.4	1.8	1, 2, 4, 5	С, Е
Consolida orientalis	Ranunculaceae	t	3	2	1	2	S
Consolida regalis	Ranunculaceae	t	1	1	1	1, 2, 8	Е
Convolvulus arvensis	Convolvulaceae	g	2.15	2.19	1.41	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,	8 C, E, S
Conyza albida *	Asteraceae	t	3	3	2	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	S
Conyza bonariensis *	Asteraceae	t	3	3	1.5	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	S
Conyza canadensis *	Asteraceae	u	2.58	2.25	1.64	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, S
Conyza sumatrensis *	Asteraceae	t	3	3	2	7	С
Corchorus olitorius *	Tiliaceae	t	3	1	1	3, 5	S
Coronilla varia	Fabaceae	h	2	1	1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	E
Crepis aspera *	Asteraceae	t	3	3	3	7	S
Crepis bursifolia	Asteraceae	g	2	1	-	5	S
Cuscuta campestris *	Cuscutaceae	5 t	2.5	2.75	1.33	1, 3, 4, 5	E, S
Suscuta epithymum	Cuscutaceae	t	3	3	1	1	2, 5 S
Synanchum acutum	Asclepiadaceae	n	-	2	1	1	S
Synodon dactylon	Poaceae	g	2.7	2.45	1.36	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Synouon addryton Syperus difformis	Cyperaceae	s t	3	1	2	2, 4, 5	Е, 5 Е
Syperus eragrostis *	Cyperaceae	h	2	1	-	5	S
Syperus esculentus	Cyperaceae	g	2.4	2.2	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	C, S
Syperus rotundus	Cyperaceae	g	2.4	2.2	2	1, 2, 5, 4, 5, 6	C, 5 S
Jactylis glomerata	Poaceae	g h	2. 4 1	1	2	1, 4, 5, 6, 7	S
actytis giomerata Datura innoxia *	Solanaceae	t II	3	1	-	5	S
Datura stramonium *	Solanaceae	t	2.07	2	- 1.93	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	S E, S
Daucus carota	Apiaceae		2.33	2 1.67	1.93		E, S C, E, N
Daucus carola Descurainia sophia	Brassicaceae	u u	2.33 1.2	2	2.5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, N C, E
rescuranna sopnia	DIASSICALEAE	u	1.2	2	2.3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	С, Е

Species	Family	LF	SPR	WED	CON	Crop systems	Regions
Digitaria ischaemum	Poaceae	t	2	1	1	1, 3	С
Digitaria sanguinea	Poaceae	t	1.89	1.56	2.11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Diplachne fascicularis	Poaceae	t	3	3	2	2	S
Duchesnea indica *	Rosaceae	h	3	2	-	1, 5, 6	S
Echinochloa crus-galli	Poaceae	t	2.36	2.44	2.04	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	8 C, E, N, S
Echinochloa eruciformis	Poaceae	t	1	1	-	6, 7	S
Echinocystis lobata *	Cucurbitaceae	t	2.5	2.5	2	2, 3, 4, 6	S
Echinophora tenuifolia	Apiaceae	h	-	1	2	2, 3	E
Eleusine indica *	Poaceae	t	1.5	1.5	2	4, 5, 6	C, S
Epilobium ciliatum *	Onagraceae	h	2.33	2.5	3	5, 6, 7	С, Е
Epilobium hirsutum	Onagraceae	h	2.5	2	1.5	2, 3, 4, 8	S
Equisetum arvense	Equisetaceae	g	2.18	2.45	1.18	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	8 C, E, N, S
Erigeron annuus *	Asteraceae	u	3	2	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	8 S
Erodium cicutarium	Geraniaceae	u	1	1	2	5	Е
Euphorbia agraria	Euphorbiaceae	h	2	2	1	1, 2, 5, 6	Е
Euphorbia heterophylla	Euphorbiaceae	t	2	1	1	5	S
Euphorbia nutans *	Euphorbiaceae	t	3	3	3	6	S
Euphorbia prostrata *	Euphorbiaceae	t	2	2	2.5	5, 6, 7	C, S
Euphorbia serpens	Euphorbiaceae	t	3	2	1	5	S
Euphorbia virgata	Euphorbiaceae	h	1	2	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Е
Fallopia convolvulus	Polygonaceae	t	2	2.33	1.67	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	8 C, E, S
Fumaria officinalis	Papaveraceae	t	2.17	2	2.17	2, 4, 5	E, N, S
Galeopsis pubescens	Lamiaceae	t	-	1	1	2	Е
Galeopsis tetrahit	Lamiaceae	t	1.71	1.86	2.29	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Е
Galinsoga ciliata *	Asteraceae	t	2	1.67	2.5	2, 3, 4, 5	C, S
Galinsoga parviflora *	Asteraceae	t	2.56	2.6	2.2	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Е
Galium aparine	Rubiaceae	t	2.21	2.42	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3 C, E, N, S
Galium spurium	Rubiaceae	t	2.5	2.5	1.5	2, 3, 4, 5	E, S
Galium tricornutum	Rubiaceae	t	1.67	2.33	2.33	2, 3, 4	E, S
Geranium dissectum	Geraniaceae	t	2	2	3	4	С
Geranium pusillum	Geraniaceae	u	2	1.67	2	5,6	Е
Glycyrrhiza glabra	Fabaceae	h	2	1	1	1, 2	S
Gypsophila muralis	Caryophyllaceae	t	3	2	1	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	Е
Helianthus annuus *	Asteraceae	t	2.5	2.5	2	2, 3, 4, 5	Е
Helianthus tuberosus *	Asteraceae	g	2.5	2	2	2, 3, 4, 8	S
Heracleum lanatum *	Apiaceae	h	3	3	2	6	Ň
Heracleum mantegazzianum *	Apiaceae	h	2.44	2.78	1.57	6, 8	C, N
Heracleum sosnowskyi	Apiaceae	h	1	3	3	6	E
Heteranthera limosa *	Pontederiaceae	a	2.5	2.5	1.5	2	E, S
Heteranthera reniformis *	Pontederiaceae	a	2.67	2.33	1.33	2	E, S
Hibiscus trionum	Malvaceae	t	2	1.67	1.67	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Holcus mollis	Poaceae	h	3	3	2	2, 6, 7	S
Iordeum murinum	Poaceae	t	3	3	2	1, 5, 6, 7	Ē
Iypecoum imberbe	Fumariaceae	t	2	1	1	2	S
nula brittannica	Asteraceae	h	*	3	1	5	C
va xanthifolia *	Asteraceae	t	2.5	1.5	2	2, 3, 4, 5	E, S
luncus effusus	Juncaceae	h	2.5	2.5	1.5	1, 2, 4	E, S E
Lactuca saligna	Asteraceae	u	3	2	1.5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
Lactuca serriola	Asteraceae	u	1.75	2	1.75	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S

Species	Family	LF	SPR	WED	CON	Crop systems	Regions
Lamium amplexicaule	Lamiaceae	u	2.5	2	2.5	5	Е
Lamium purpureum	Lamiaceae	t	2	1.75	1.75	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	С, Е
apsana communis	Asteraceae	t	2	2.5	2	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, N
athyrus tuberosus	Fabaceae	g	3	3	1	1, 2, 6, 7	E
avatera cretica	Malvaceae	u	3	3	1	6	S
eersia oryzoides	Poaceae	g	2.5	3	1.5	2	C, S
olium multiflorum	Poaceae	h	1	2	1	2,4	S
Lolium rigidum	Poaceae	t	2.5	1.5	2	2, 6, 7	S
Lotus tenuis	Fabaceae	h	3	3	1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7	Е
ysimachia punctata	Primulaceae	h	1	1	3	1	Е
l alva neglecta	Malvaceae	u	2	2	1.5	1, 4, 5, 6	Е
Ialva silvestris	Malvaceae	u	3	3	3	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8	S
Iatricaria chamomilla	Asteraceae	t	1.5	1.6	2.4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
latricaria inodora	Asteraceae	u	2.36	2.55	2.18	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,	8 C, E, S
atricaria matricarioides *	Asteraceae	t	3	2	2	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	N
Iatricaria perforata	Asteraceae	t	2	1.67	1.33	1, 2, 3, 6, 8	Е
Ielampyrum arvense	Scrophulariaceae	t	1	1	2	1	Е
Ientha arvensis	Lamiaceae	g	2	2	2	2	C
Ientha longifolia	Lamiaceae	g	1	1	2	1, 6, 7	E
Iercurialis annua	Euphorbiaceae	u	1.33	1.67	2.33	4, 5, 6, 7	C, E
Iyosotis arvensis	Boraginaceae	t	2.5	1.5	1	2, 3, 4	C, E
lardus stricta	Poaceae	h	2	2.5	1.5	1	E, S
ligella arvensis	Ranunculaceae	t	2	1	1	2	2, 5 S
Denanthe spree	Apiaceae	h	2	2	1	1	C
robanche aegyptica	Orobanchaceae	t	3	3	2	5	S
Probanche ramosa	Orobanchaceae	t	3	3	2	5	S
ryza sativa *	Poaceae	t	3	3	1	2	S
xalis latifolia *	Oxalidaceae	g	2	3	1	5	S
xalis pes-caprae *	Oxalidaceae		2.5	2	1.5	2, 5, 6, 7	S
aliurus aculeatus	Rhamnaceae	g j	2.5	2	1.5	2, 5, 6, 7	S
anicum capillare *	Poaceae	J t	2.5	2	3	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	S
anicum capillare * anicum dichotomiflorum *	Poaceae		2.3	1.83	2	2, 3, 4, 3, 7 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	S C, S
anicum aichoiomijiorum * anicum miliaceum *	Poaceae	t +	2.29	3	2 1.67	2, 3, 4, 5	C, S C, E, S
		t +					
apaver rhoeas	Papaveraceae	t L	2.13	2.25	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, N, S
Parietaria officinalis	Urticaceae	h	1	3	1	6	S
aspalum dilatatum	Poaceae	g L	1	1	2	7	C S
aspalum distichum *	Poaceae	h	1.67	2	1.5	1, 5, 6	S
ennisetum clandestinum	Poaceae	h	2	3	1	5	S
halaris paradoxa	Poaceae	t	2	2.33	2.33	1, 2, 5, 7	N, S
hleum pratense	Poaceae	h	1	1	2	1, 2	S
hlomis fruticosa	Lamiaceae	n	3	3	1	1	S
hragmites communis	Poaceae	g	3	2	1	2, 3, 4, 5	E, S
icris echioides	Asteraceae	u	2	3	2	3, 5	S
lantago lanceolata	Plantaginaceae	h	2	2	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
lantago major	Plantaginaceae	h	1	1	2	5	E
oa annua	Poaceae	t	2.3	2	1.33	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, N, S
Poa palustris	Poaceae	h	3	3	1	1, 2	Ν
Poa trivialis	Poaceae	h	3	3	1	1, 2	Ν
olygonum amphibium	Polygonaceae	g	3	1	1	1, 5	Е

Species	Family	LF	SPR	WED	CON	Crop systems	Regions
Polygonum aviculare	Polygonaceae	t	2.09	2.18	1.82	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, N, S
Polygonum lapathifolium	Polygonaceae	t	1.4	2	2.2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	C, E, S
Polygonum persicaria	Polygonaceae	t	2.25	2.11	2.11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Portulaca oleracea *	Portulacaceae	t	2.25	2.33	2.13	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	E, S
Prosopis farcta *	Fabaceae	h	2	2	1	2	S
teridium aquilinum	Pteridiaceae	g	2.57	3	1.29	1, 4, 6, 7, 8	E, N, S
Canunculus acris	Ranunculaceae	h	3	3	1	1,6	Ν
Canunculus arvensis	Ranunculaceae	t	2	2	2	1, 2, 6	Е
anunculus repens	Ranunculaceae	h	2	2	1	1,6	E, N
aphanus raphanistrum	Brassicaceae	t	2.17	2.33	2.67	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
eynoutria japonica *	Polygonaceae	g	2.62	2.46	1.15	2, 3, 4, 6	C, N, S
eynoutria sachalinensis *	Polygonaceae	g	2	2.5	1.67	2, 3, 4, 6	C, N, S
orippa silvestris	Brassicaceae	h	2	2	1	4, 5, 6	E, N
ubus caesius	Rosaceae	n	3	2	1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	С
ubus ulmifolius	Rosaceae	n	2	-	1	6, 7	S
udbeckia laciniata *	Asteraceae	g	2	1	2	2, 3, 4	S
umex acetosella	Polygonaceae	h	2	2	1.5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	S
umex bucephalophorus	Polygonaceae	t	2	2	2	2, 6, 7	S
umex conglomeratus	Polygonaceae	h	2	3	2	1, 5, 6	S
umex crispus	Polygonaceae	h	2.6	2.4	1.4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
umex longifolius	Polygonaceae	h	2.5	3	2	1	N
umex obtusifolius	Polygonaceae	h	1.5	2.5	2	1, 5, 6	E, S
umex pulcher	Polygonaceae	h	2	3	2	1, 5, 6	S
agina procumbens	Caryophyllaceae	с	2	2	2	5	С
ılsola kali	Chenopodiaceae	t	3	3	1	2, 3, 7	S
alvia reflexa	Lamiaceae	t	2	2	_	1	Е
anguisorba minor	Rosaceae	h	1	1	2	1	E
candix pecten-veneris	Apiaceae	t	2	2.5	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	N, S
cirpus maritimus	Cyperaceae	g	1	2	1	2, 4	C
cirpus mucronatus	Cyperaceae	ь h	3	3	1	2, 1	S
cleranthus annuus	Caryophyllaceae	u	2	1.5	2.5	2, 3, 4	E
ecale cereale	Poaceae	u	2	3	2.5	2, 3, 1	S
enecio inaequidens *	Asteraceae	u	2.75	1.75	1.33	1	C, S
enecio vernalis	Asteraceae	u	2.67	1.33	1.5	1, 4	C, N
enecio vulgaris	Asteraceae	t	2.5	2.13	2.29	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	C, E
etaria glauca	Poaceae	t	2.5	2.13	2.29	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
etaria glauca etaria verticillata	Poaceae	t	2	2.14	2.14	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	L, S C, S
etaria viridis	Poaceae	t	2.13	2	2.55	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, S C, E, N, S
icyos angulatus *	Cucurbitaceae	t	2.15	2	-	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, N, S S
ilene aegyptica	Caryophyllaceae	t	3	3	- 3	1, 2, 3	S S
ilybum marianum	Asteraceae		2	2	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 0, 7 2	s S
•	Brassicaceae	u t	2	2.38		2 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
inapis arvensis	Brassicaceae	t			2.31		
symbrium altissimum		u	1	1	3	2	E
isymbrium loeselii	Brassicaceae	u	1	2	3	4	C
symbrium officinale	Brassicaceae	u	2	2	3	4	C
planum luteum	Solanaceae	t	2	1	2	3, 4, 5	E
olanum nigrum	Solanaceae	t	2.33	2.25	1.86	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
olanum physalifolium *	Solanaceae	t	3	3	1	5	S
olanum sarachoides *	Solanaceae	t	1	1	2	5	С

Species	Family	LF	SPR	WED	CON	Crop systems	Regions
Solanum tuberosum *	Solanaceae	g	2	3	1	2, 4, 5	Ν
Sonchus arvensis	Asteraceae	h	2.31	2.08	1.54	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,	8 E, N, S
Sonchus asper	Asteraceae	t	3	2	2	1	Ν
Sonchus oleraceus	Asteraceae	t	3	2.5	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Sorghum bicolor *	Poaceae	t	3	3	3	4	S
Sorghum halepense *	Poaceae	h	2.5	2.52	1.81	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, S
Sorghum nigrum *	Poaceae	t	3	2	2	2, 3, 4, 5	S
Spergula arvensis	Caryophyllaceae	t	1.5	2	2	2, 3, 4	Е
Stachys annua	Lamiaceae	t	2	2	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Е
Stachys palustris	Lamiaceae	g	2.5	2	1	2, 3, 4, 5	E, N
Stellaria graminea	Caryophyllaceae	h	2	2	2	2, 3	Е
Stellaria media	Caryophyllaceae	t	2.17	2.39	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, N, S
Symphytum officinale	Boraginaceae	h	2	1.5	2	1, 2, 4, 6	С, Е
Tagetes minuta *	Asteraceae	t	2	2	2	7	С
Tanacetum vulgare	Asteraceae	h	2	2	1	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8	Е
Taraxacum officinale	Asteraceae	h	2.4	2.3	1.3	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	E, N, S
Thlaspi arvense	Brassicaceae	u	2	2	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Е
Torilis arvensis	Apiaceae	t	3	2	1	6, 7	S
Trifolium arvense	Fabaceae	u	1	2	2	1, 2	Е
Tussilago farfara	Asteraceae	g	1.5	2	1.5	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	C, S
Typha latifolia	Typhaceae	g	2	1.5	1.5	1	Е
Urtica dioica	Urticaceae	h	3	2	2	6	С
Urtica urens	Urticaceae	t	2.29	2.57	2.33	1, 4, 5, 6, 7	C, E, S
Veratrum album	Liliaceae	h	2	3	1	1, 6	Е
Veronica hederifolia	Scrophulariaceae	u	1	1	2	2	Е
Veronica persica *	Scrophulariaceae	t	3	2.67	2.67	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Vicia cracca	Fabaceae	h	3	2	1	2, 5	Е
Vicia hirsuta	Fabaceae	t	2	2.5	2	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Е
Vicia villosa	Fabaceae	u	3	3	1	2, 6, 7	Е
Viola arvensis	Violaceae	u	2.22	2.22	1.78	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	C, E, N
Viola tricolor	Violaceae	u	1	2	2.5	1, 2, 4, 5	E, S
Vulpia myuros	Poaceae	t	2	2	2	2	S
Vulpia unilateralis	Poaceae	t	2	2	1	2	S
Xanthium italicum *	Asteraceae	t	3	2.5	1.8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	E, S
Xanthium spinosum *	Asteraceae	t	2	1.33	1.67	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	E, S
Xanthium strumarium	Asteraceae	t	2.36	2.27	1.5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	E, S

LF = life form: a aquatic plant, c chamaephyte, g geophyte, h hemicryptophyte, j shrub, n small shrub, p vine, u biennial. SPR = mean score for spread potential (1 minimum, 3 maximum), WED = mean score for weediness (1 minimum, 3 maximum), CON = mean score for control success (1 minimum, e.g. difficult to control; 3 maximum, e.g. easy to control). CULT = number of culture systems in which species occurs. For definition of crop systems see text. * indicates that the species is alien to Europe. Crop systems refer to the systems for which species has been listed: 1 fodder plants and pastures, 2 cereals, 3 grain legumes, 4 root crops, 5 vegetables and ornamentals, 6 orchards, 7 vineyards, 8 other agricultural areas. Regions refers to the following regions in which the species has been listed: C Central Europe (Austria, France, Germany, The Netherlands), N Northern Europe (British Isles, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden), E Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine), S Southern Europe (Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Slovenia, Croatia).