

PSE 203 WEED IDENTIFICATION
Fall 2004, 2 Credits
Sect. 001 Tuesday, 2:10-5 pm

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Objectives

This course aims to provide students with identification skills and knowledge of the basic biology of weedy plants common to agricultural, horticultural, turf, and roadside environments.

Format

PSE 203 will meet once per week. The class period will be devoted to the observation and study of specimens in the greenhouse and field with some lecture time to introduce new species and discuss their biology.

Schedule

Week	Dates	Lab	Quizzes, Exams and Assignments
1	8/31	1. Introduction to Weed ID & Recognition of Weed Families	
2	9/7	2. Methods and Resources for Identification to Species— Weeds of Turf & Managed Grounds	✓ Quiz #1
3	9/14	3. Weeds of Roadsides & Waste Areas	✓ Quiz #2
4	9/21	4. Agricultural Weeds I. >> ROGERS FARM	✓ Quiz #3
5	9/28	5. Agricultural Weeds II. >> ROGERS FARM	✓ Quiz #4
6	10/5	6. Grasses	✓ Quiz #5
7	10/12	**No Class — Fall Break**	
8	10/19	7. Weed ID Exam—Field Specimens	✓ Exam 1
9	10/26	8. Seed/Seedling ID—Dicots	✓ Quiz #6
10	11/2	9. Seed/Seedling ID—Monocots	✓ Quiz #7
11	11/9	10. Weed Jeopardy	✓ Quiz #8
12	11/16	11. Weed ID Final Exam	✓ Final Exam
13	11/23	**No Class**	
14	11/30	**No Class**	✓ Weed Collections Due
15	12/7	Weed Collections Returned	

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact either your instructor or Ann Smith, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (Onward Building, 581- 2319), as early as possible in the term.

Required Text/Materials

- Uva, R. H., J. C. Neal, et al. (1997). Weeds of the Northeast. Ithaca, NY, Cornell University Press. (Available at the book store)
- Lab Manual for PSE 203 (Distributed by First Class as a pdf file and available through WebCT)
- plant press, paper, glue, etc., for preparing weed collections

Recommended

- hand lens (5X to 10X)

WebCT

- A WebCT site has been developed to deliver supplementary material for PSE 203. The “Self-Quizzes” may be particularly useful. If you have not automatically had a PSE 203 WebCT account created, you may do so by visiting the site: <https://webct.umaine.edu>.
- for help with WebCT see: <http://www.umaine.edu/help/technical/webct/index.htm>

Grading

You will be responsible for sight identification of the species on the “Weed Identification List, Fall 2004.” You should learn each plant’s approved common name, scientific name, family, and life cycle; correct spelling is expected.

Quizzes (120 pts.)

There will eight quizzes, each worth 20 points; the lowest two quiz scores will be dropped. Quizzes will be cumulative in nature; i.e., Quiz #1 will cover species introduced in Lab 1; Quiz #2 will cover species from Lab 1 and Lab 2; etc. You will be given a group of specimens and asked for the family, genus and species, or common name. Additional questions will address aspects of the species biology that contribute to its weedy habit. Specimens may include seeds, seedlings, or mature plants. We will emphasize use of live plant material or freshly collected field specimens but for certain species we will rely on color slides, or pressed specimens. Notes, guides, etc., will not be permitted during these exams.

>>Quizzes will only be available on the dates indicated. Make-up quizzes will not be given.

Weed ID Exams (2 x 80 pts.)

Weed Collection (160 pts.)

Each student is required to make a weed collection and hand in 40 specimens representing 40 species from at least 15 plant families. Specimens do not have to be included in the “Weed Identification List”, however, this is a good way to learn about species which you don’t easily recognize. Each specimen will be graded on a 0-4 point scale (0 = no specimen or incorrectly identified specimen; 2 = important features missing or difficult to see, a difficult to recognize specimen; and 4 = a perfectly adequate if not herbarium quality specimen). The entire collection is worth 160 points. For exceptional collections additional points may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor. Valuable prizes will be awarded to the top collections.

Final Grades

Grade	Percent of Total Points Possible
A	95-100
A-	90-95
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	60-65