



Weeds as Soil Indicators

Acid Soil:

Ox-Eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)
Curly dock (*Rumex crispus*)
Sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)
Sowthistles (*Sonchus species*)
Prostrate knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*)
Lady's thumb (*Polygonum persicaria*)
Wild strawberries (*Fragaria species*)
Plantain (*Plantago major*)
Rough Cinquefoil (*Potentilla monspeliensis*)
Silvery cinquefoil (*Potentilla argentea*)
Hawkweeds (*Hieracium species*)
Knapweeds (*Centaurea species*)

Alkaline Soil:

Field peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum*)
Goosefoot (*Chenopodium species*)
Gromwell (*Lithospermum officinale*)
True chamomile (*Anthemis nobilis*)
Bladder campion (*Silene latifolia*)

Wet Soil:

Cattail (*Typha latifolia*)
Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)
Bull sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*)
Lady's thumb (*Polygonum persicaria*)
Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)
Silvery cinquefoil (*Potentilla argentea*)
Curly dock (*Rumex crispus*)
Mosses (all species)
Pennsylvania smartweed (*Polygonum pennsylvanicum*)
Tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)
Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)
May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
Sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)
Thyme-leaved speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*)
Canada goldenrod (*Solidago graminifolia*)
Meadow pink (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)
Jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*)
Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)
Marsh Mallow (*Althaea officinalis*)
Sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*)
Ground nut (*Apios americana*)

Dry Soil:

Virginia pepperweed (*Lepidium virginicum*)
Rough cinquefoil (*Potentilla monspeliensis*)
Potato vine (*Ipomoea pandurata*)

Sandy Soil:

Sandbur (*Cenchrus species*)
Dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillidolium*)
Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*)
Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)
Small nettle (*Urtica urens*)
Arrow-leaved wild lettuce (*Lactuca pulchella*)
Maltese thistle (*Centaurea melitensis*)

Heavy Soil:

Wild garlic (*Allium vineale*)
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
Bradleaf dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*)
Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)
Plantain (*Plantago major*)

Poor Soil With Low Humus:

Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)
Dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*)
Broom sedge (*Adropogon virginicus*)
Yellow toadflax (*Lindaia vulgaris*)

Soil With Hardpan Or Hard Crust:

Horse nettle (*Solanum carolinense*)
Pennycress (*Thlaspi arvense*)
Quack grass (*Agropyron repens*)
Field mustard (*Brassica nigra*)
Morning glory (*Ipomoea purpurea*)
Pineapple weed (*Matricaria saunenolens*)

Previously Cultivated Soil:

Lamb's quarter (*Chenopodium album*)
Plantain (*Plantago major*)
Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*)
Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*)
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)
Rough pigweed (*Amaranth family*)
Carpet weed (*Mullugo verticillata*)

Rich Soil:

Chicory (*Chichorium intybus*)
Pigweeds (*Amaranth family*)
Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*)
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
Lamb's quarter (*Chenopodium album*)
Burdock (*Arctium minus*)
Pokeweed (*Phytolacca Americana*)
Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*)
Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*)

