

**Vascular Plants of
Allen Dale Farm,
Shelby County,
Kentucky**



Abutilon theophrasti: velvetleaf or pie-marker, edible weed of corn fields from southern Asia



Acer negundo: box-elder (male), common bisexual riparian tree; with musky smell avoided by beavers



Acer nigrum: black maple, distinguished by its mysterious stipules and droopy leaves



Acer saccharum: sugar maple, source of shade and sweetness on the frontier



Aesculus glabra: Ohio buckeye, avoided by cattle and usually deer, due to its chemistry; its nuts are poisonous but often used as worry stones



Agastache nepetoides: yellow giant hyssop, tall rhizomatous bitter mint avoided by deer



Ageratina altissima: white snakeroot, cause of “milk-sickness” that killed Lincoln’s mother



Agrimonia pubescens: soft agrimony, an old rosaceous remedy for many maladies



Ailanthus altissima: tree-of-heaven, a smelly invasive tree from China.



Alliaria petiolata: garlic mustard, woodland invader from Europe, but eaten by sheep



Allium vineale: “onion grass”, a noxious weed from Europe , tainting milk in cattle that eat it



Ambrosia trifida: giant ragweed or “buffalo-weed”, tall annual, allergen through pollen, but seed feed quail



Amphicarpaea bracteata: peaviine/hog-peanut, small tubers eaten by free-ranging hogs after settlement



Apocynum cannabinum: dogbane/Indian hemp, toxic but much used for medicine and fiber



Arctium minus: lesser burdock, a biennial weed from large root, edible before flowering



Artemisia vulgaris: mugwort, very bitter weed that that been used to kill intestinal worms



Asclepias syriaca: common milkweed, with running roots that prosper along roads and fields



Asclepias tuberosa: orange milkweed, mostly on drier soils, running roots used for pleurisy



Asplenium platyneuron: ebony spleenwort, one of commonest ferns across Kentucky, mostly in thin dry woods



Barbarea vulgaris: wintercress /"creasies", an alien weed but edible, especially when cooked; one of two common yellow field weeds—the other is butterweed



Bidens frondosa: beggarticks, annoying annual without showy flowers like bur-marigold



Botrypus virginianus: rattlesnake fern, one of the commonest fern allies in Kentucky, mostly in damp shady woods; heavy oil-laden spores



Bromus inermis: smooth running brome, alien weed but highly palatable to cattle



Bromus racemosus: smooth annual brome, alien annual weed of plowed fields; has several relatives



Buxus sempervirens: boxwood, persistent ornamental shrub, ancient Roman introduction to Britain from southern Europe



Calystegia sylvatica: giant bindweed, ours is showy native along woodland edges



Campsis radicans: trumpet-creeper, favorite of humming-birds in mid-summer



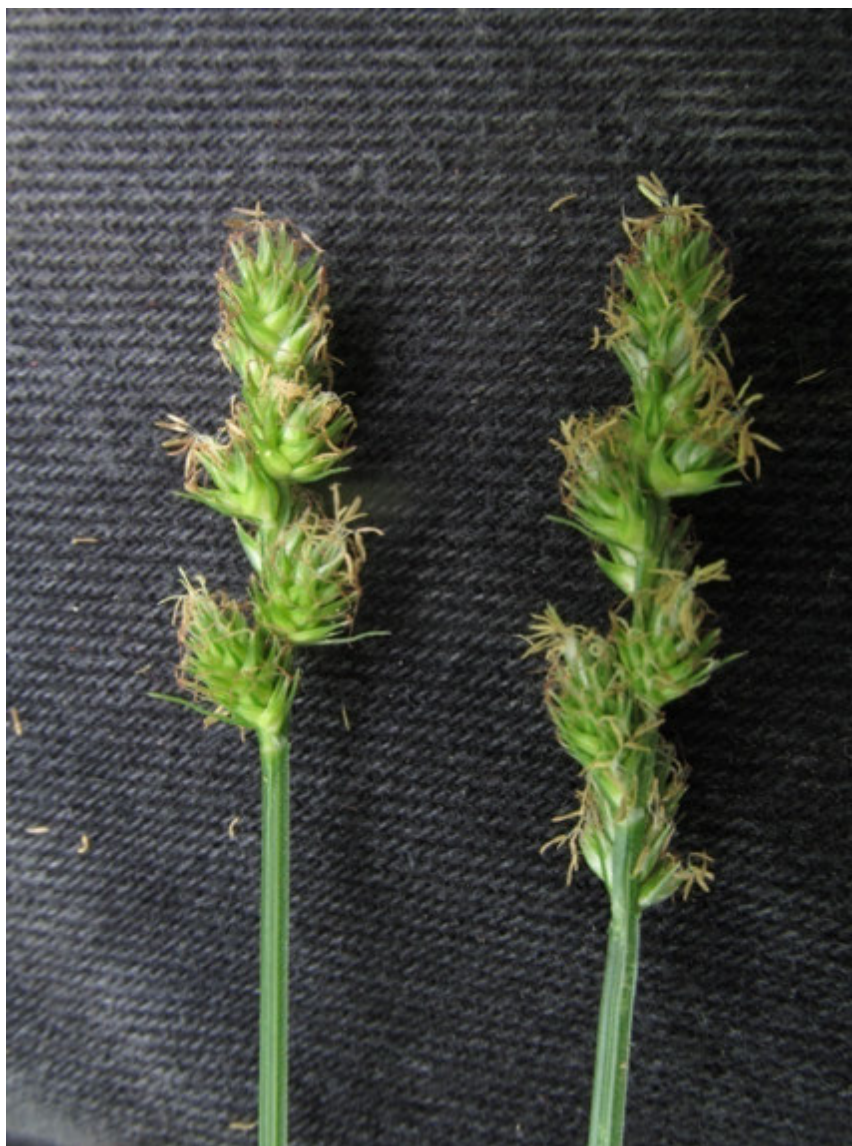
Capsella bursa-pastoris: shepard's purse, with distinctive fruits, here hiding among other winter annuals



Cardamine hirsuta: bittercress, a common winter-annual, quite edible in the rosette stage but hard to forage



Carduus nutans: nodding thistle, a biennial alien with spectacular blossom, liked by butterflies, but a noxious weed in the state of Kentucky



Carex aggregata: a tall spiked sedge, common in old pastures and thin Bluegrass Woodland



Carex blanda: a pale green lax sedge, one of most common species in KY, but relatively palatable to herbivores



Carex cristatella: an oval sedge typical of wet calcium-rich soils, potential confused with *vulpinoidea* in leaf



Carex granularis: a densely seeded lax-like sedge typical of seasonally damp calcium-rich soils



Carex grisea: a glossy “greasy” lax-like sedge typical of thin woods and edges on calcium-rich soils



Carex oligocarpa: a few-seeded lax sedge typical of moderately deep shade on calcium-rich soils



Carex rosea: a narrow-leaved sedge with elongated spike, typical along paths through rich woods



Carex shortiana: a densely seeded sedge, darkening when ripe, discovered in Kentucky by C.W. Short



Carex vulpinoidea: a dense-spiked cespitose (clumping) sedge, locally common on wet ground , ditches



Carya cordiformis: bitternut or “white-hickory”, with distinctive yellow buds, rich woods; nuts bitter for humans



Carya laciniosa: shellbark hickory; larger nuts than others in the genus; was favored native american food source



Celtis laevigata: sugarberry, the southern cousin of hackberry or perhaps hybrid here; smoother bark than hackberry



Celtis occidentalis: hackberry at left; sugarberry at right with smaller leaves, less toothed



Cerastium glomeratum: mouse-eared chickweed, small hairy cousin of common chickweed



Cerastium vulgare: perennial mouse-eared chickweed, almost showy and accepted in woods



Chaerophyllum procumbens: wood chervil, a dainty parsley-like plant that may be edible



Cichorium intybus: chicory, alien weed that has been bred into salad greens and coffee-substitute or additive



Cinna arundinacea: a reed-grass of damp woods, here remarkably common in the disjunct Lane Swale.



Circaea canadensis: enchanter's nightshade, home of fairiy-like flowers in deeper woods



Cirsium discolor: old field thistle, a native favored for butterflies, not a noxious weed; in meadows not cropped fields



Commelina communis: dayflower, Asian weed, delicate flowers that withered when picked



Conium maculatum: poison hemlock, a toxic alien biennial that killed Socrates; exploded in Kentucky during recent decades; not to be confused with wild parsnip



Conoclinium coelestinum: blue mist-flower, blooms in late summer; unpalatable stoloniferous spreader on damp soil



Cornus drummondii: roughleaf dogwood, best native substitute for alien bush honeysuckle; along creeks



Cryptotaenia canadensis: honewort, a riparian herb that may be edible based on its Eurasian cousins



Cynodon dactylon: Bermuda grass, prospering in warm mowed areas then browns in winter



Cyperus strigosus: common nutsedge, prospers in damp fields



Dactylis glomerata: orchard grass, superior forage and even humans can nibble on intercalary meristems



Daucus carota: Queen Ann's Lace, alien ancestor of our cultivated carrot, but with very bitter root



Desmodium perplexum: old field tick-trefoil, seeds covering our pants and socks each fall; one of few native legumes



Dianthus armeria: Deptford pink, an alien but scarcely a weed, being so sparse in pastures and roadsides



Dichanthelium clandestinum: deer-tongue grass, or perhaps the “buffalo-grass” noted by some pioneers



Digitaria sanguinalis: common crab-grass, but exact identity and nativity uncertain



Dioscorea polystachya: Chinese yam, invasive but with edible roots and “air potatoes” in leaf axils; the native wild yam not found on farm



Duschesnea indica: false strawberry, with weak watery flavor unlike our native strawberry



Elephantopus carolinianus: elephant's foot, small cousin of ironweed



Elymus macgregorii: early wild rye, flowering in late May, palatable, former dominant of original woodland; named after Kentucky naturalist John MacGregor by Julian Campbell



Elymus villosus: downy wild-rye, flowering a little mid-June. nodding and mostly on drier sites than *macgregorii*



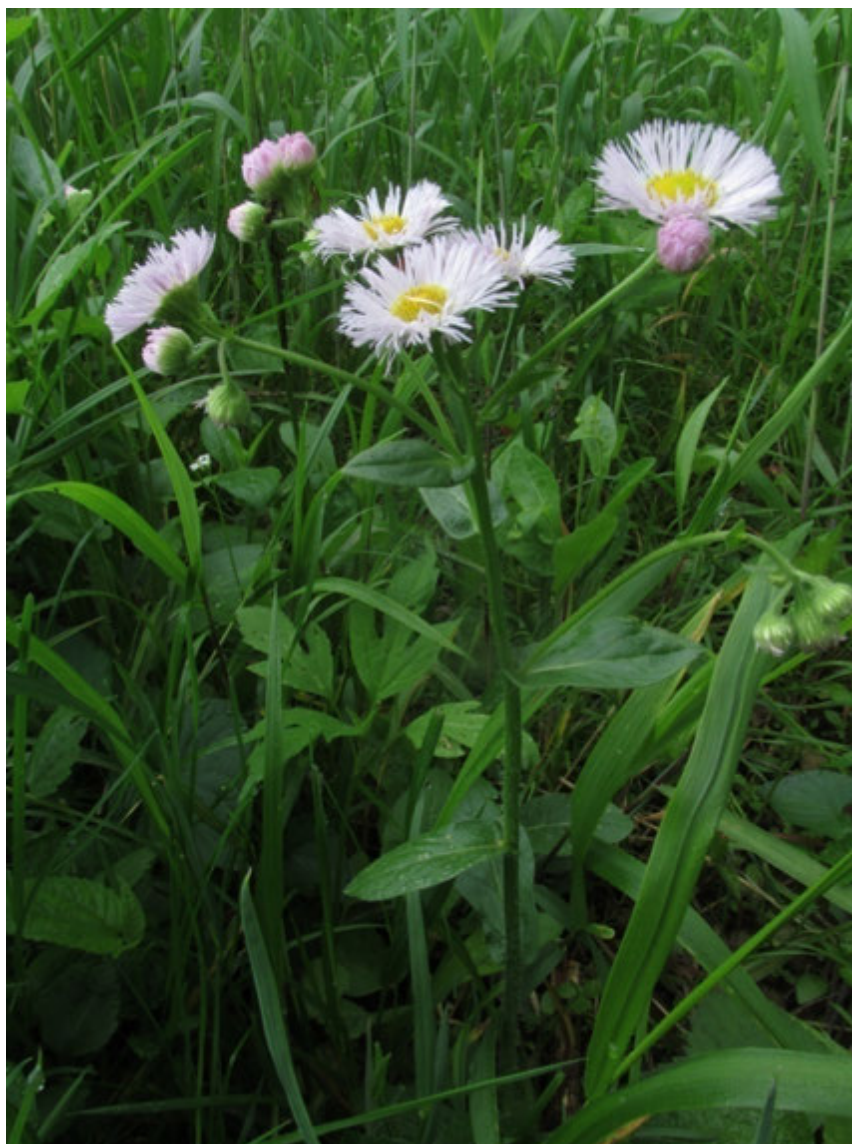
Elymus virginicus: common wild-rye, flowering late June; sheathed, probably promoting some self-pollination



Epilobium coloratum: cinnamon willow-herb, named after color of hairs that disperse seeds



Erigeron annuus: summer daisy-fleabane, bitter weed with much caffeic acid, potential antioxidant



Erigeron philadelphicus: spring daisy-fleabane, earlier (in May) and often extending deeper into woods than *E. annuus*



Euonymus atropurpurea: spindle or wahoo, shade-tolerant shrub but grazed by many herbivores; majestic red and pink fruit



Euonymus fortunei: purple wintercreeper, aggressive Asian woody vine, lower reaches grazed by deer and cattle



Euphorbia dentata: toothed spurge, southwestern weed, unpalatable to mammals , birds eat seeds



Fagus grandifolia: beech, formerly frequent in county, now only this yard tree at farm, perhaps planted



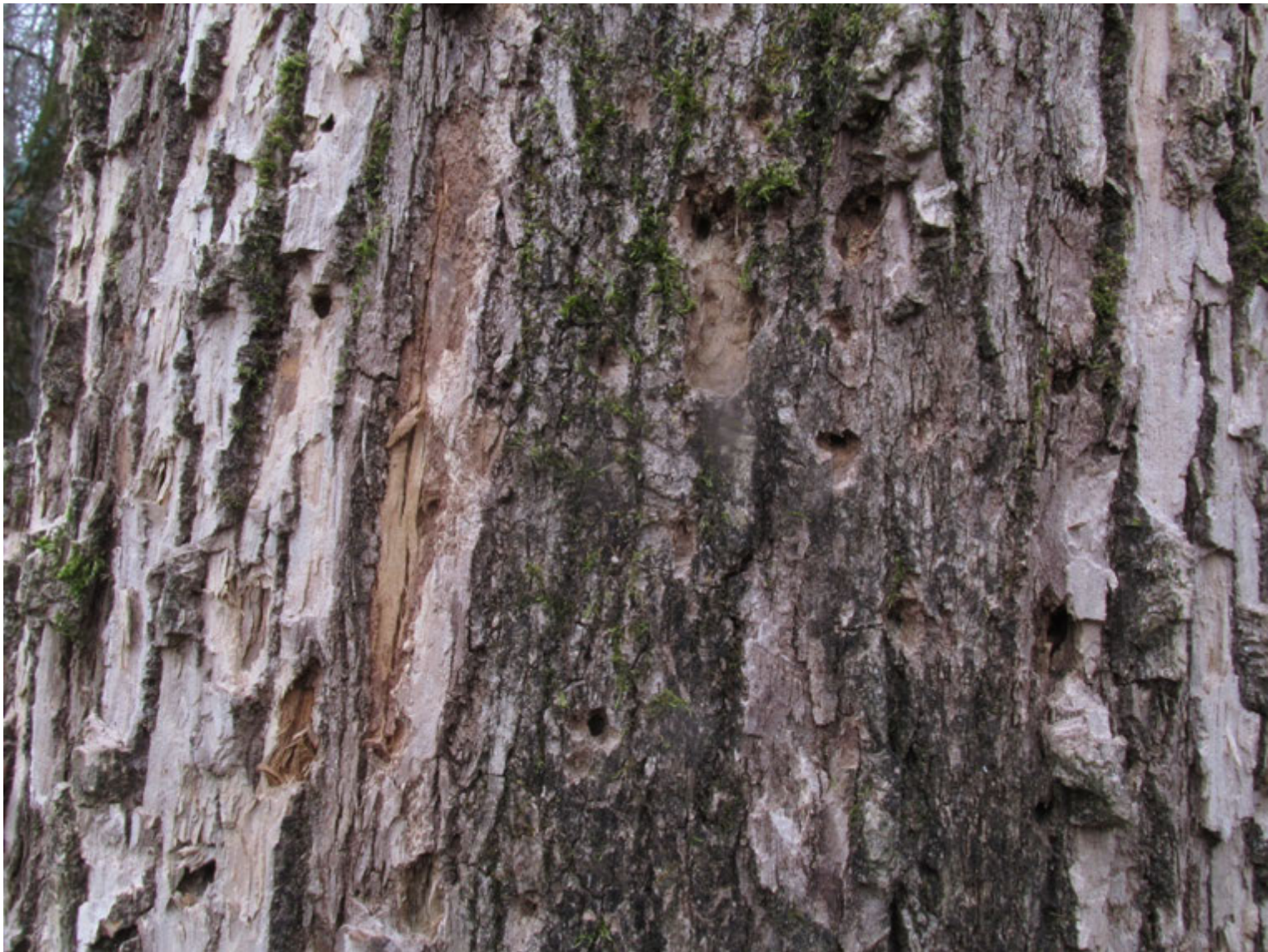
Festuca arundinacea: tall fescue, widely sown in pastures but sometimes containing a toxic fungus that affects horses



Festuca subverticillata: wood fescue, locally common in woodland, but can be grazed out by cattle



Fragaria virginiana: wild strawberry, not common here, mostly in dry sunny pastures; delicious edible fruits



Fraxinus americana: white ash, devastated by Emerald Ash Borer, with D-shaped exit holes



Fraxinus pennsylvanica: green ash, lacks fine waxy white reticulum on lower leaf surface of white ash



Fraxinus quadrangulata: blue ash, more shade-concentrated than other ashes, rare on farm



Galinsoga quadriradiata: quickweed, Central American summer annual , often a weed of gardens



Galium aparine: common bedstraw, clinging clambering annual that may be native



Galium triflorum: woodland bedstraw, vanilla-scented perennial, somewhat sprawling; rare on farm



Geum canadense: common avens, white rosaceous herb in thin woods, fields and gardens



Geum vernum: early avens, less common than canadense and more concentrated in woods



Glechoma hederacea: gill-over-the-ground (or ground-ivy), sprawling minty herb, too pungent for mammals



Gleditsia triacanthos: honey locust, remnant of woodland coevolved with large Pleistocene megafauna



Glyceria striata: fowl mannagrass, wet ground along streams



Gymnocladus dioica: coffee tree, apparently an early coffee-substitute, coevolved with ungulates



Helinium autumnale: lowland sneezeweed, plants of genus formerly used for snuff



Helianthus tuberosus: meadow sunflower, edible source of the Jerusalem artichoke cultivar



Hemerocallis fulva: daylily, popular Asian flower escaped near house, especially along stream



Hydrangea arborescens: wild hydrangea, restricted to single site on less disturbed rocky bank of Allen Creek



Hydrophyllum appendiculatum: biennial waterleaf, native remnant of original woods in cemetery



Hypericum perforatum: common St. John's wort, famous foreign medicinal weed



Hypericum punctatum: spotted St. John's wort, native species; not used in medicine



Impatiens capensis: orange jewelweed, summer annual of damp soil, popular with hummingbirds



Iodanthus pinnatifidus: purple rocket, one of few native mustards, damp woods along trails



Ipomoea lacunosa: a small white morning-glory, a native annual often growing up corn



Juglans nigra: black walnut, abundant native tree, with edible nuts and valuable wood



Juncus effusus: common rush, forming unpalatable clumps in wet pastures



Juncus tenuis: path rush, especially in woods, on drier sites than others in the genus



Juniperus virginiana: red cedar, formerly rare but now widespread in old fields; little browsed by deer or cattle; berries used to flavor gin



Lamium purpureum: purple dead-nettle, an alien winter annual that carpets fallow cropland in early spring



Leersia virginica: upland rice-grass, common along woodland trails, but often with stilt-grass



Lemna minor: common duckweed, one of the world's smallest flowering plants



Lepidium campestre: field pepperwort, another alien mustard



Lepidium virginicum: common pepperwort, one the few native mustards, often around buildings and roads



Leucanthemum vulgare: oxeye daisy, a common weedy alien but much loved wild flower!



Ligustrum obtusifolium: Amur privet, from northeast Asia, widely scattered in woods but much browsed by deer



Lobelia inflata: Indian tobacco, stimulant, emetic, insecticide; chewed on hot days for relief



Lobelia siphilitica: giant blue lobelia, a native medicinal plant



Lonicera fragrantissima: winter honeysuckle, much planted alien ornamental near house, not truly escaped in region



Lonicera japonica: Japanese honeysuckle, twining vine loved for its smell, hated for its eco-chokehold



Lonicera maackii: Amur bush honeysuckle, abundant invader except where deer are dense



Lysimachia nummularia: moneywort; alien weed of floodplains, spreading uncontrolled under our feet



Maclura pomifera: Osage Orange or Hedge Apple, ecological anachronism, now dispersed by humans



Malva neglecta: common mallow; grows along verges with frequent mammalian urination



Medicago lupulina: black medic, a small relative of alfalfa; grows in mowed / trampled areas



Menispermum canadense: moonseed, vine with alkaloids that cure cancer or kill in excess



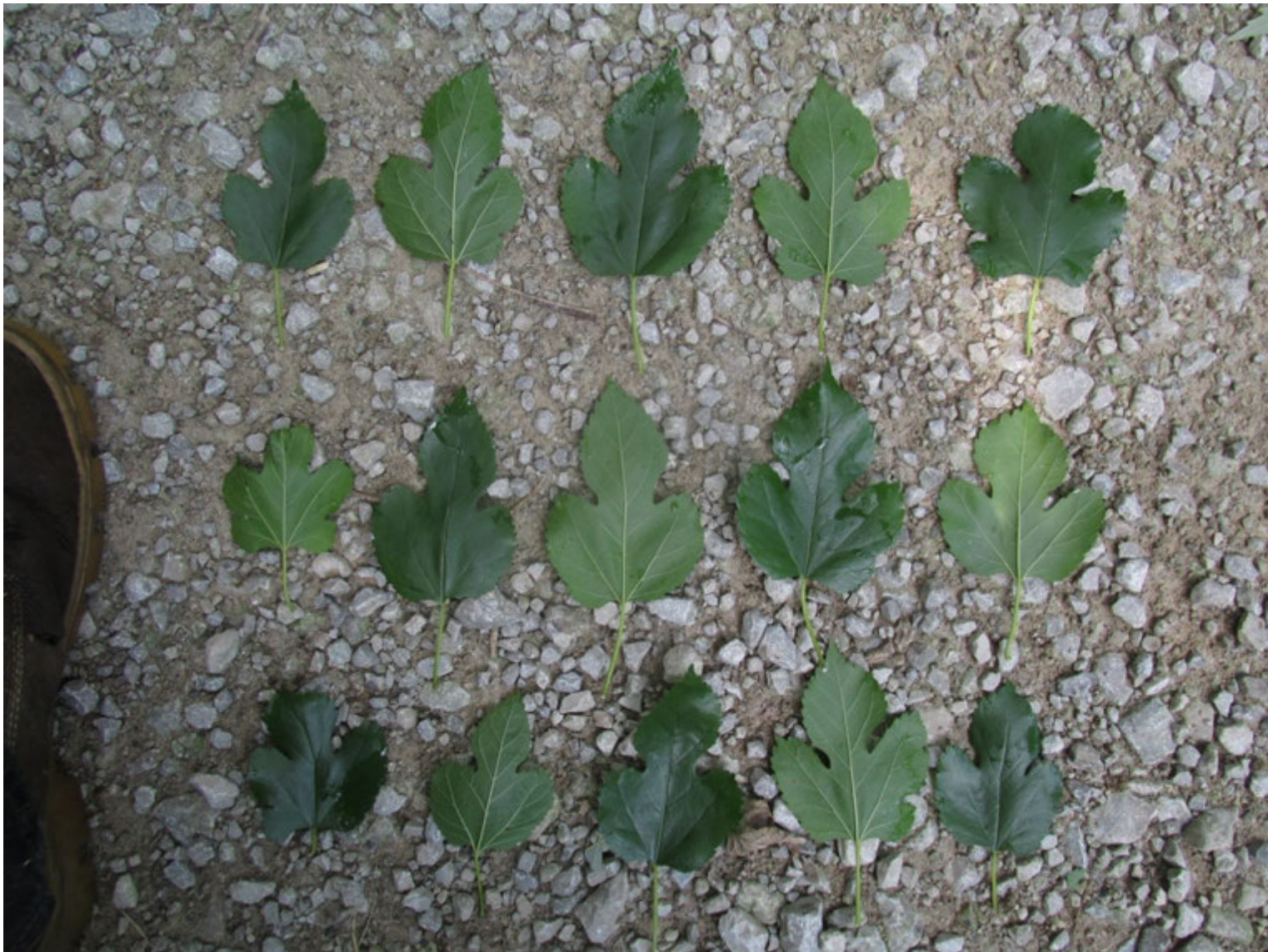
Mentha piperita: peppermint, famous for its high menthol content, in contrast to spearmint (for juleps)



Microstegium vimineum: Japanese /stilt grass, unpalatable alien annual on woodland paths



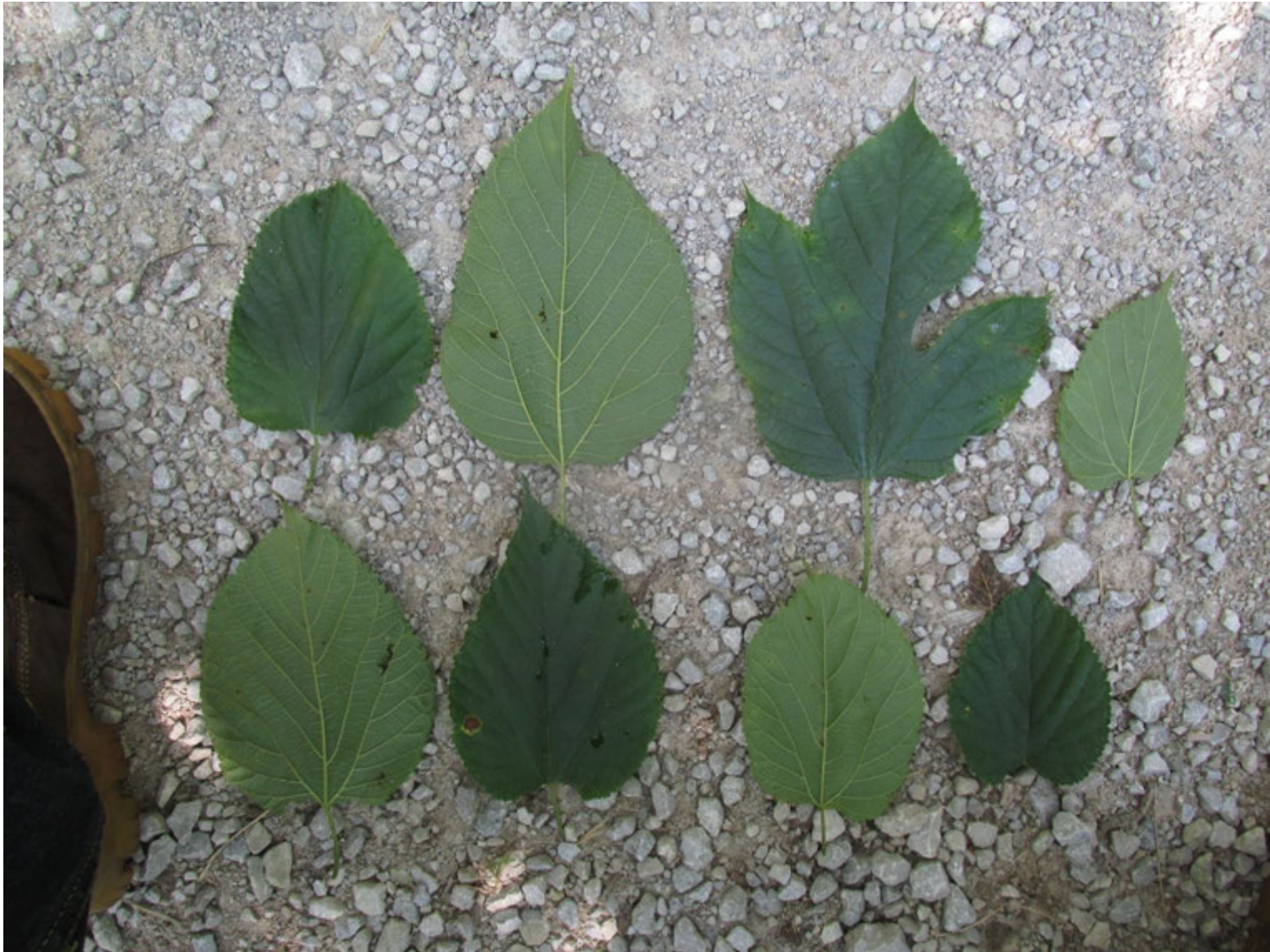
Mollugo verticillata: carpetweed, sprawling annual on plowed ground or shorelines



Morus alba: white mulberry, from silkworm food to invasive fruiting weed, unless browsed



Morus alba x rubra: hybrid of white and red mulberry, scattered in suburban country



Morus rubra: red mulberry, native, better fruit for humans, less browsed by deer and rabbits



Muhlenbergia schreberi: nimble will, unpalatable but homely native in mowed shade



Muscari neglectum: grape hyacinth, with persistent bulbs near house, but does it also spread by seed?



Myosotis macrosperma: a “forget-me-not” that pervades the woods, especially along trails



Narcissus pseudonarcissus: daffodil, persistent near house from bulbs, rarely from seed



Ornithogalum umbellatum: Star-of-Bethlehem, cultivated for ornament since early settlement



Ostrya virginiana: hophornbeam, an "ironwood" largely extracted from original woods



Oxalis dillenii: common wood-sorrel, apparently native but quite happy around our homes



Packera glabella: butterweed, abundant winter annual in fallow fields, boosted by no-till farming



Parthenocissus quinquefolia: Virginia creeper, climbing with adhesive pads
(unlike its cousins, the grapes)



Paspalum pubiflorum: lawn lens-grass, prospering in mowed, trampled or grazed areas



Pastinaca sativa: wild parsnip, ancestor of the infamous vegetable, to which some are averse



Penthorum sedoides: ditch stonecrop, a specialist of damp shorelines, not scoured by floods



Persicaria longiseta: Asian smartweed, an annual too intimately invasive to consider removing



Persicaria punctata: dotted smartweed, our white native answer to the pink Asian menace



Persicaria virginiana: Virginia knotweed, our most shade-tolerant members of the genus



Phacelia purshii: Miami mist, abundant winter annual in recovering Bluegrass Woodland



Phalaris arundinacea: riparian reed-grass, native grazed out by cattle but psychedelic



Phleum pratense: timothy, a superior grass for forage, and even humans nibble intercalary meristems



Phryma leptostachya: lopseed, rather obscure relative of the vervains in deeper shade



Physalis subglabrata: smooth wild tomatillo; somewhat edible fruits but unpalatable leaves



Phytolacca americana: poke, extraordinary member of largely tropical genus



Pilea pumila: clearweed, somewhat edible greens, especially if mixed with other plants



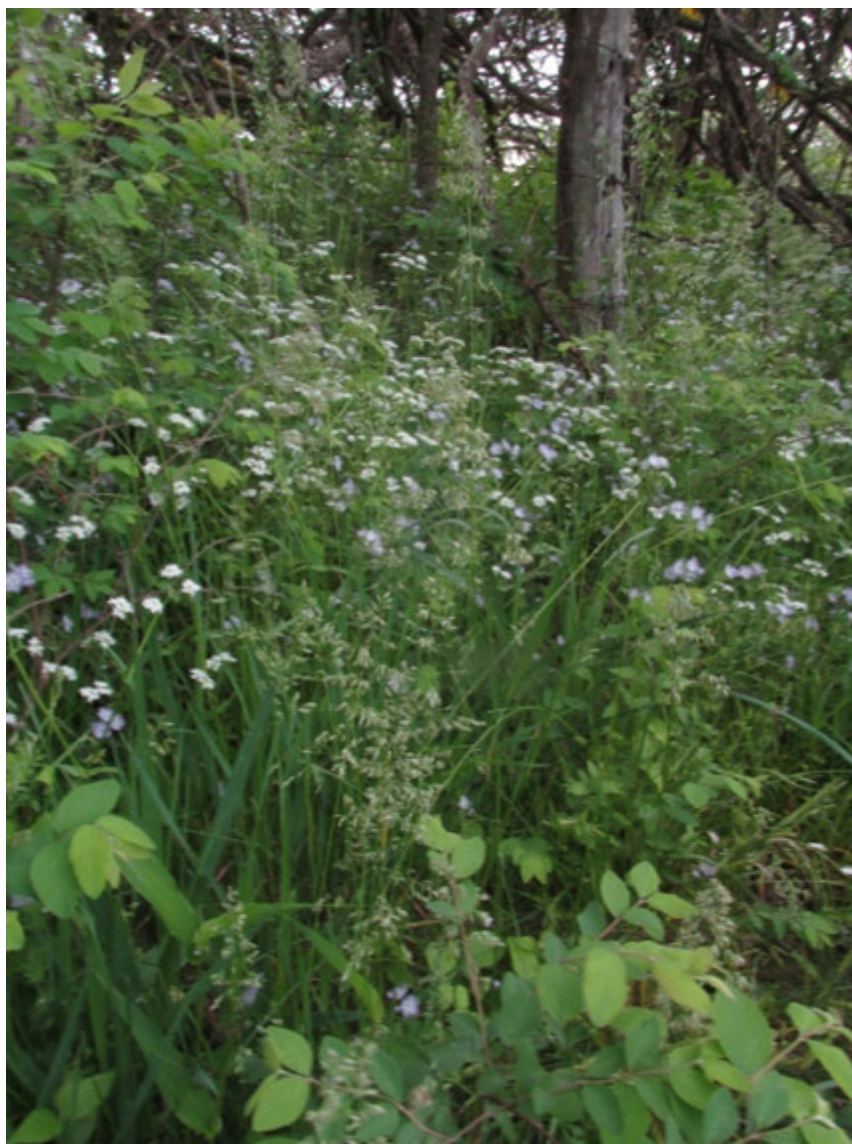
Plantago rugelii: broad-leaved plantain, a native adapted to frequent trampling, grazing or mowing



Platanus occidentalis: sycamore, potentially the largest tree native to central Ohio Valley



Poa annua: annual bluegrass, early alien annual that proliferates on bare trampled soil



Poa pratensis: common bluegrass, much sown by pioneers but perhaps with native strain



Poa sylvestris: woodland bluegrass, a dainty native, now recovering in formerly grazed woods



Poa trivialis: rough bluegrass, probably alien but common in riparian woods and edges



Podophyllum peltatum: mayapple, fruit dispersed by vertebrates, foliage toxic and avoided



Polygonum aviculare: common knotweed, a denizen of rural dirtroads and urban sidewalks



Prunella vulgaris: selfheal, variable with native and alien forms; Rafinesque described ten



Prunus serotina: black cherry, our most widespread tree but generally excluded from canopy in deeper woods



Pyrus calleryana: callery pear, now seductively spreading in region from residential plantings



Quercus macrocarpa: bur oak, producing the largest acorns in North America; establishes in fields and edges



Quercus muehlenbergii: chinquapin oak, producing small early acorns with little bitterness



Quercus palustris: pin oak, typical of swampy place but adventive onto uplands around fields



Quercus shumardii x *rubra*: hybrid of Shumard & northern red oak; pure trees also nearby



Ranunculus abortivus: smooth lesser buttercup; a common slightly toxic plant on thin woods on damp ground



Ranunculus sardous: bitter buttercup, the name sharing sardonic origin with the island of Sardinia



Ranunculus sceleratus: cursed buttercup, the most toxic species in genus, with 2.5% protoanemomin



Rubus pensilvanicus: common blackberry, prickly
producer of predeliction



Rudbeckia triloba: brown-eyed Susan, a weedy coneflower with three-lobed lower leaves



Ruellia strepens: lowland wild petunia, spectacular flowers in morning, then wilting in afternoon



Salix nigra: black willow, soothing source of aspirin, unclogging arteries, lining slow streams



Sambucus canadensis: elderberry, many white flowers & black fruits, eat with batter & sugar



Sanguinaria canadensis: bloodroot, with toxic alkaloid used in mouthwashes & toothpastes



Sanicula canadensis: common sanicle, widespread medicinal Apiceous plant in woodland



Scilla sibirica: wood squill, a Caucasian ornamental with widely planted bulbs and perhaps spreading by seed



Sedum ternatum: woodland stonecrop, the only true succulent typical of shady places here



Setaria faberi: giant foxtail, an Asian annual grass that has prospered here in plowed ground



Sicyos angulatus: bur-cucumber, annual vine that can climb up to 25 feet high on rich soil



Sida spinosa: prickly sida, an annual southern weed that has spread north into plowed fields after settlement



Sisyrinchium angustifolium: blue-eyed grass, a diminutive cousin of the irises that could be cultivated



Smilax hispida: bristly greenbrier, largely reduced by deer, but young shoots protected



Sonchus asper: prickly sow-thistle, annual weed with reputedly edible lettuce-like leaves



Sorghum halepense: aggressive grass from Mediterranean region, promoted in US by a Colonel Johnson



Stachys tenuifolia: river betony, largely browsed out along smaller streams and on uplands



Staphylea trifolia: bladdernut, suckering shade-tolerant shrub with weird fruit that rattles



Stellaria media: common chickweed, ruderal that Japanese relish in mixed spring greens



Symphoricarpos orbiculatus: coralberry, small bush that often dominates browsed woods



Taraxacum officinale: dandelion, widespread weed famous in food, poetry, song and bed



Taxodium distichum: bald cypress, native in western Kentucky, planted in the Bluegrass



Teucrium canadense: germander, a bitter minty plant that spreads in thin woods and gardens if allowed



Trifolium campestre: hop-clover, annual in old fields with yellow flowers and some forage value



Trifolium pratense: red clover, important economic cespitose crop for forage and bees



Trifolium repens: white clover, important economic stoloniferous crop for forage and bees



Valerianella radiata: corn-salad, abundant edible winter annual in low woods and meadows



Verbascum thapsus: greater mullein, imposing weed with varied medicinal & obscene uses



Verbena urticifolia: white vervain, frequent in thin woods on damp soil, but rather flowers



Verbesina alternifolia: lowland wingstem, abundant forb of thin woods, edges and meadows



Vernonia gigantea: common ironweed, avoided by ungulates, accumulates in old pastures



Veronica arvensis: field speedwell, easily overlooked winter annual with little blue flowers



Veronica hederifolia: ivy-leaved speedwell, more typical of damp shady ground than *agrestis*



Viburnum rufidulum: rusty blackhaw, remnant of rocky woods; should be widely planted



Viola papilionacea: smooth stemless-blue-violet; God created violets for botanists to argue



Viola striata: creamy white running-violet, damp shady ground with trampling or mowing



Vitis vulpina: fox-grape, small sour fruits, relished by birds, rejected by larger mammals



Xanthium strumarium: cockle-bur, annual , prickly fruit formerly consumed by parakeets