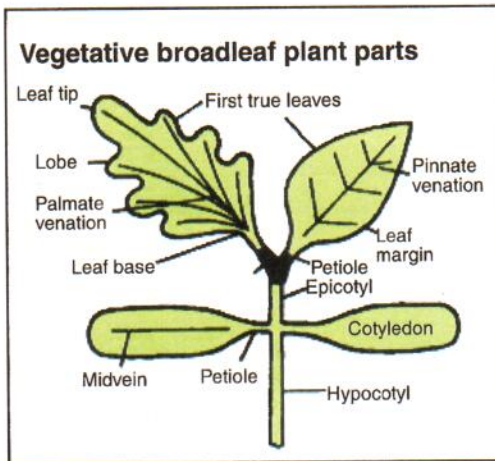


Broadleaf weed seedling identification key



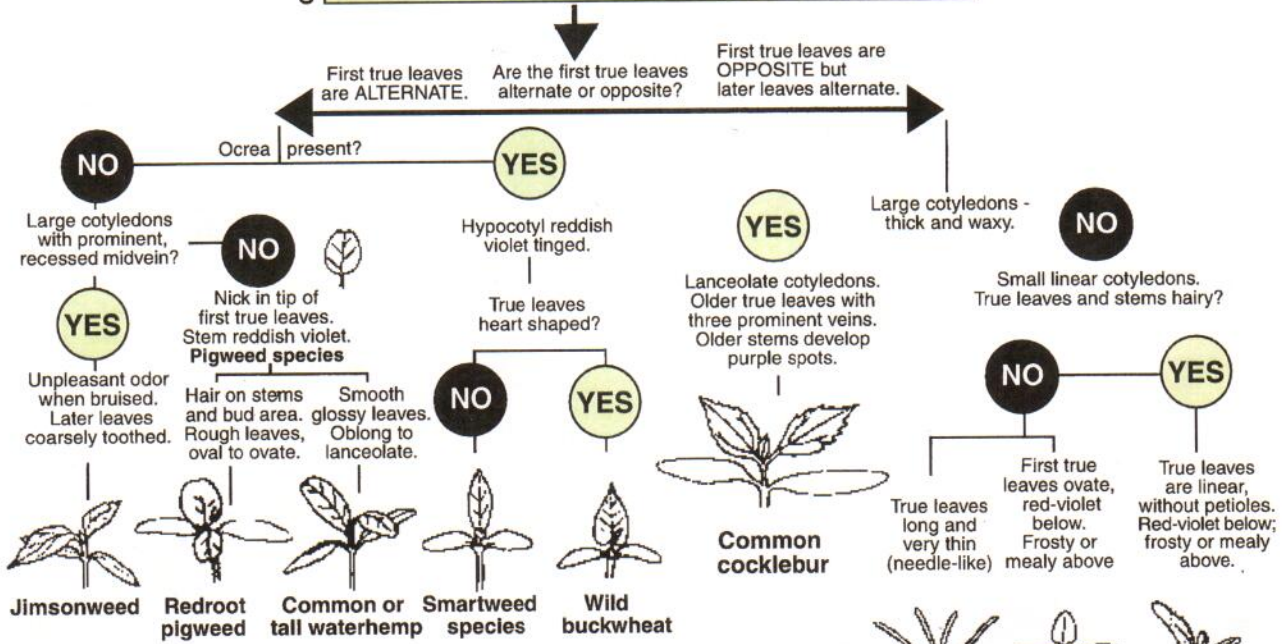
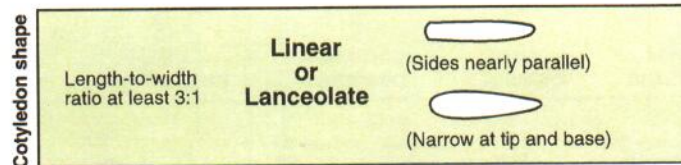
STEP 1 - Identify cotyledon shape.
STEP 2 - Are first true leaves alternate or opposite?
STEP 3 - Answer question yes or no.



Opposite leaves
 Two leaves attached to each node or opposite sides of stem. Leaves at the same node are of similar size.

Often the first true leaves are opposite, but later leaves are alternate.

Alternate leaves
 One leaf per node. Newest leaf is smaller than preceding leaf.



Other weeds with linear-lanceolate cotyledons and first true leaves **alternate**:

- Buffalo bur
- Cutleaf nightshade
- Pigweed species with fine hairs on stem: Smooth pigweed, Powell amaranth
- Pigweed species without fine hairs on stem: Palmer amaranth, Prostrate, spiny, and tumble pigweeds

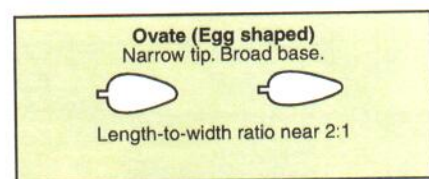
Other weeds with an **ocrea**—membranous, papery sheath encircling nodes and petioles:

- Swamp smartweed
- Docks
- Knotweeds
- Red sorrel

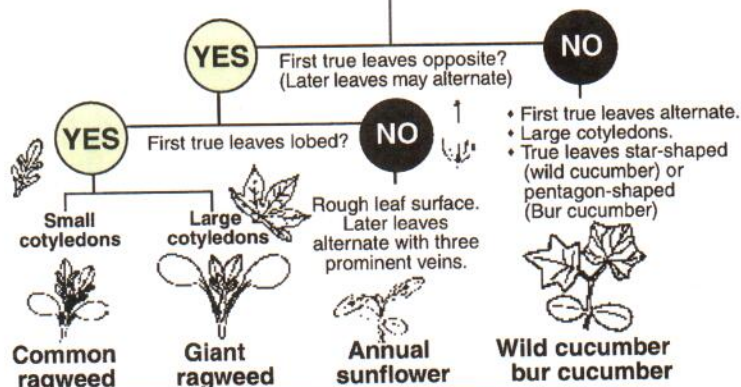
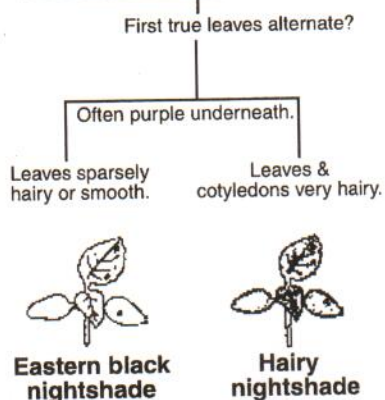
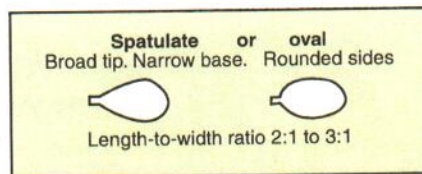
Other weeds with linear-lanceolate cotyledons and first true leaves **opposite**:

- Purslane
- Puncturevine (may appear alternate)

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Cotyledon shape



Other weeds with ovate cotyledons:
First true leaves

Alternate:
Ground cherry
Horseweed
White cockle

Opposite:
Chickweed

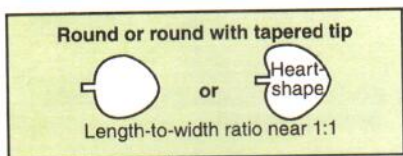
Other weeds with spatulate or oval cotyledons:

First true leaves **alternate:**
Blue mustard
Tansy mustard
Prickly lettuce
Hemp sesbania

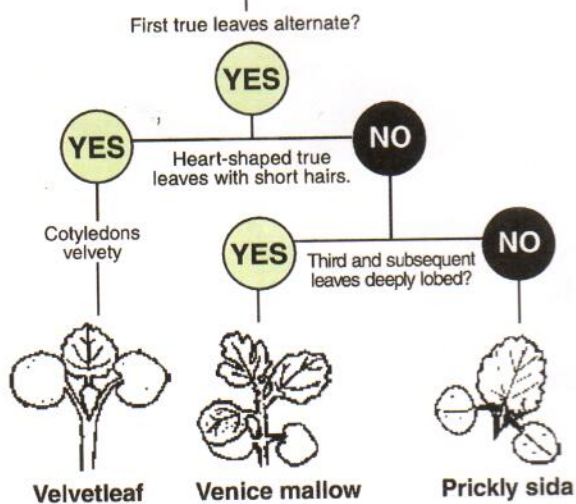
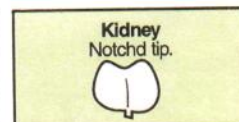
Canada thistle
Musk thistle
Shepherd's-purse

First true leaves **opposite:**
Jerusalem artichoke*
Marijuana
Spurge, annual
Devil's-claw*

*Later leaves alternate

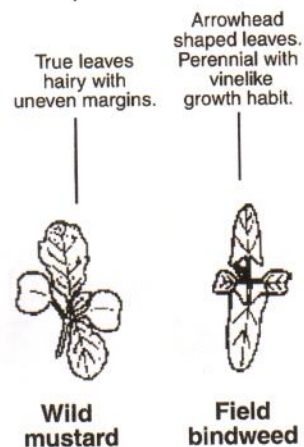


Cotyledon shape



First true leaves alternate.
Large cotyledons with prominent veins.

First true leaves alternate.



Other weeds with round cotyledons:

First true leaves **alternate:**
Common mallow Sicklepod
Corn gromwell Yellow rocket

First true leaves **opposite:**
Henbit Copperleaf
Marshelder Field pennycress (later alternate)

Other weeds with butterfly cotyledons:
Most morningglory species

Other weeds with kidney cotyledons:
Hedge bindweed
Wild radish

Grass weed seedling identification key

