

Fall Survey of Grasslands at 132 Concession 3, Fisherville Ontario

Report by Virginia Janssen, BSc, CCA-ON

October 2020

A survey of the grasslands that may be used for field competition exercises at 132 Concession 3, Fisherville, Ontario was performed on October 7, 2020. The objective of the survey was to locate occurrences of plants because some may be harmful to dogs. One resource chronicling these plants of concern, often referred to as “mean seeds” is located at the URL <http://www.meanseeds.com/resources/the-bad-grass-list/>.

Vascular plant species encountered in the grasslands were recorded and the list is provided (Table 1.). A total of 20 species were observed within the fields during the October survey in 2020.

Figure 1 is a map that includes the locations found during the fall survey of one plant species (Canada Wild Rye, *Elymus canadensis*) that is included among the list of “mean seeds” that might be harmful to dogs.

At least two locations contained some plants of concern. There are *Elymus canadensis* populations along the north portion of the bush at the southeast edge of the property. The populations go from the western tip of the bush east to approximately the middle of the bush. This location also had *Setaria faberii* present, which can be harmful to dogs. There is an additional *Elymus canadensis* population on each side of the pathway along the river leading back to the competition fields.

Other plants that inhabit the fields are listed in the tables and some may possibly be of concern to dog enthusiasts. This report attempts to inform the reader so that each individual can make his or her own decision regarding their participation in events held at the locations listed in the report. All dog owners, handlers, and participants should review the list of plants and endeavor to become educated with regard to “mean seeds” and make independent decisions regarding the safety of their animals. This report is descriptive in nature and neither its author nor the committee that commissioned it can guarantee the safety of any individual dog from harmful plants. It is impossible to certify any field as 100% clear of harmful plants; however, the providers of this report are confident that each field was surveyed and pertinent information regarding harmless plants is provided.

Table 1: Vascular plants found in the October 2020 survey of grasslands at 132 Concession 3, Fisherville.

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Common Burdock
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth brome
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle
<i>Cornus sericea</i> L.	Red-osier dogwood
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot
<i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i>	Teasel
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wild rye
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	Northern willowherb
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Smooth bedstraw
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild bergamot
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass
<i>Poa</i> spp.	Bluegrass species
<i>Setaria faberii</i>	Giant foxtail
<i>Setaria viridis</i>	Green foxtail
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada Goldenrod
<i>Solidago</i> spp.	Goldenrod species
<i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i>	Heath aster
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch

Figure 1: Map of 132 Concession 3, Fisherville with *Elymus canadensis* (Canada wild rye) and had *Setaria faberii* (giant foxtail) locations marked.

