

PLANTAGINACEAE – PLANTAIN FAMILY

Plant: herbs mostly, some shrubs

Stem:

Root:

Leaves: simple, most in a close basal rosette, with open sheaths, most have parallel veins; no stipules

Flowers: mostly perfect, rarely monoecious; very small and crowded on a spike on a separate stalk (scape); flowers have (3)4 sepals and petals, often fused and papery; stamens 4 (rarely 1-3) and extend far beyond the top of the corolla; ovary superior, 2 carpels

Fruit: capsule, nut, or dried seed

Other: the major genus is *Plantago*; very common, a lawn problem;
Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 3+ genera; locally *Littorella*, *Plantago* (plantain)

PLANTAGINACEAE – PLANTAIN FAMILY

[Large] Bracted Plantain; *Plantago aristata* Michx.

English [Narrowleaf, Buckhorn] Plantain; *Plantago lanceolata* L. (Introduced)

Common Plantain; *Plantago major* L. (Introduced)

Blackseed [American] Plantain; *Plantago rugelii* Dcne.

Virginia [Dwarf] Plantain; *Plantago virginica* L.

[Large] Bracted Plantain

Plantago aristata Michx.

Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family)

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge, White County, Arkansas

Notes: flower of 4 parts, white and spread apart on long spike, sepals green, bracts long (5-10X of flowers) and showy; leaves basal, linear, usually shorter than flower stalks (scapes), smooth to densely short hairy; many characters somewhat variable; late spring to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2007]



English [Narrowleaf, Buckhorn]

Plantain

Plantago lanceolata L. (Introduced)

Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower of 4 parts, greenish, stamens very long, cluster head is usually relatively short, mostly cylindrical and dense; leaves basal, lanceolate, short petiole, parallel veined with 3-5 ribs; a lawn problem; late spring to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2004]



Common Plantain

Plantago major L. (Introduced)

Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower with 4 parts, whitish, sepals very small and green, on long and dense spikes, scape hairy; leaves all basal and ovate, rounded to nearly cordate base, veins prominent from base, long petioles +/- hairy; a lawn problem; summer to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2004]



Blackseed [American] Plantain



Plantago rugelii Dcne.

Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower of 4 parts, greenish to whitish, sepals green and very small, bracts with a raised keel and awl-like tip usually, scape hairy; leaves all basal, ovate to oblong with long petiole, purplish and mostly glabrous at base; early summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2007]



Virginia [Dwarf; Hoary] Plantain

Plantago virginica L.

Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower of 4 parts, greenish to whitish, sepals green and very hairy, scape with dense long hairs; leaves all basal, ovate to oblong, usually with 3 major veins, hairy; plant usually < 25 cm; late spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2007]

