

Is it a TREE, a FLOWER, or a WEED?

“A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place but intends to stay.”

- SARA STEIN

- ✓ ***If you did not plant it or place it there on purpose, it's probably a weed.***
- ✓ ***If it looks out of place in your landscaping, it's considered a weed.***
- ✓ ***If it thrives in adverse conditions, it could be a weed.***

TREE OF HEAVEN (*ailanthus altissima*)

It is considered a noxious weed and an invasive species. It was originally introduced to the United States in the late 1700's and was popular as a fast-growing shade tree. Not until the early 1900's did we become concerned with the weedy and invasive characteristics of the tree.



PRICKLY LETTUCE (*lactuca serriola*)



SPEAR THISTLE (*cirsium vulgare*)

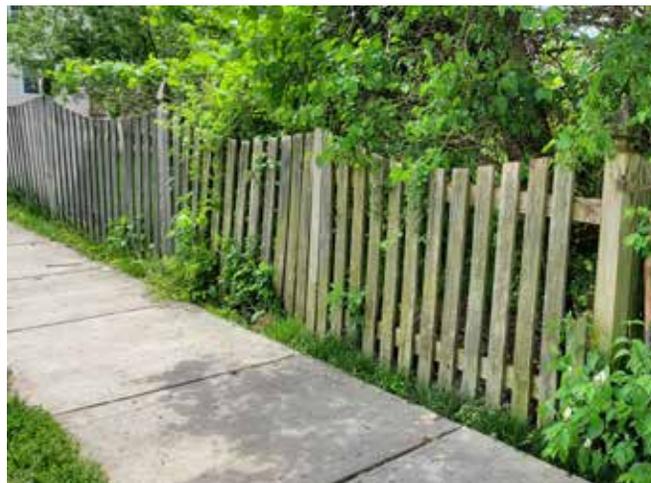
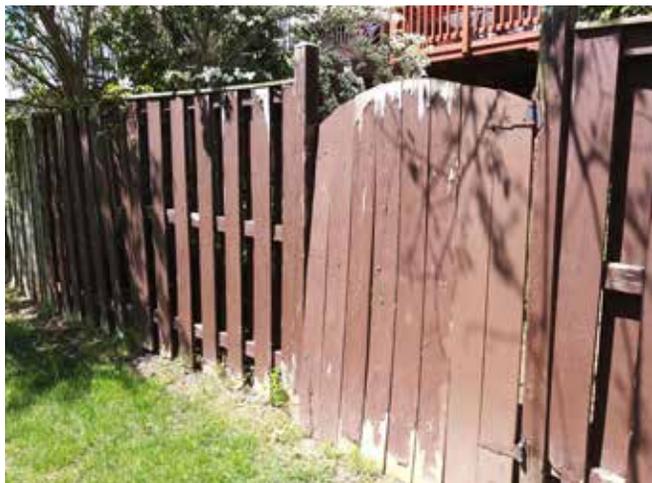


Not sure if a plant in your landscaping bed is a weed?

Try looking it up on the internet or ask a professional landscaper or even a neighbor, there are many smart people living in South Riding with years of experience maintaining a nice yard.

DISCLAIMER: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE WE BELIEVE THE PHOTOS SHOWN REPRESENT THE WEED SPECIES IDENTIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE.

Is it Time to Replace Your... **Wooden Fence?**



Fences can add to or detract from your home's curb appeal. They also provide security and privacy. On average the life expectancy of a wood fence is 10-15 years, a few years more is possible for properly maintained fences which includes routine cleaning, sealing and repairs.

Visual signs it is time to replace your wooden fence

- ◆ Large sections of the fence are leaning, or the fence looks wavy. This is a sign that the general structure of the fence is losing strength.
- ◆ Loose or leaning posts, posts are harder to repair because they are often grounded in cement.
- ◆ Wood rot, generalized throughout the fence, be sure to look at the boards closest to the ground when evaluating.
- ◆ Numerous missing, broken, or warped boards.
- ◆ If the numerous repairs add up to fixing 20% or more of your fence you should replace it, experts call this good financial sense to invest in a new fence.
- ◆ You don't like the look of your existing fence and think it's time to upgrade to a new one.

