

Rough cocklebur

Xanthium strumarium

Description

Considered a nuisance to livestock producers. This place can reduce the value of wool if burs are entangled and is considered poisonous to all livestock. This species is listed under Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation as a restricted noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Habit

Coarse, erect, branching, annual herb that reproduces solely by seed.

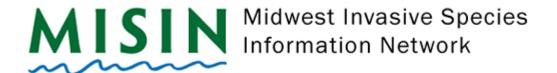
Leaves

First true leaves are opposite, subsequent leaves are alternate. Triangular to ovate, covered with stiff hairs, 2-6 inches long with irregular lobes and leaf margins with inconspicuous teeth.

Stems

Erect, reaching heights of 30-150 cm tall, tough,





covered with dark streaks or spots and short hairs.

Flowers

Inconspicuous, greenish in color, arising between the leaf petioles and the stems and at the ends of the erect stems.

Fruits and Seeds

Elliptic to egg-shaped two-chambered bur, 0.5-1.5 inches long and covered with hooked prickles. Each contain 2 seeds and 2 hooks project from the tip of the bur that are longer and winder than the others.

Habitat

Native to North America. Can be found in roadsides, railways, small streams, and riverbanks.

Reproduction

Reproduces only by seed.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling or hoeing is effective for small populations prior to flowering. Prescribed burning has been shown to be effective in destroying seed bank. Can be controlled using a wide variety of soil- and foliar- applied herbicides such as 2,4-D amine, Dicamba, Bromoxynil and selective weed oils.

Credits

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