

Horse nettle

Solanum carolinense

Description

Fruits and foliage contain alkaloid and increases throughout the growing season. This species is listed under <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest/plant-health-certification-and-export/seed> Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation as a prohibited noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Habit

Perennial, creeping plant reaching a height of 1-3 feet and covered with prickles.

Leaves

Oblong to egg-shaped, 2-6 in. long, up to 3 in. wide, both surfaces covered in star-shaped hairs, short stalk. Edges are often wavy, toothless but shallowly lobed, typically angular and resembling large teeth.

Stems

Variously covered in sharp, yellowish prickles,





green in color and covered in star-shaped hairs.

Flowers

5 pale lavender petals that unite at the base, deeply 5 lobed and star-shaped, less than 1 in. in diameter.

Fruits and Seeds

Yellow berries, 1/2 in. in diameter, smooth when young becoming wrinkled. Borne in clusters and holds 40-170 yellow, disk-shaped seeds.

Habitat

Native to southeastern United States. Can be found in old fields, pastures, orchards, roadsides, and waste places.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively.

Similar

Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*).

Credits

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