

## Bigpod sesbania

### *Sesbania herbacea*

#### Description

This plant is toxic to livestock. Grown primarily as a soil-improving crop.

#### Habit

Erect, large, semi-woody, herbaceous perennial that can reach heights of 3-10 feet tall.

#### Leaves

Bright green in color, alternate, 30 cm long, even-pinnately compound, 20-70 opposite arranged leaflets. Leaflets are 0.75-2.5 cm long, smooth margins and with a pointed tip. Somewhat hairy or waxy below.

#### Stems

Glabrous, few, green in color, semi-woody, growing 3-10 feet tall.

#### Flowers

2-6 stalked, bell-shaped flowers, borne in a 2-8 cm elongated inflorescence from the leaf axil. Yellow to yellowish-orange in color with purple





spots or streaks. Tubular, 3-4 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, pea-like, upper petal is 1.5 cm long.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Linear seedpod, 10-20 cm long, 3-4 mm wide, smooth, jointed, 4-sided, tipped with a small beak. Contains 30-40 seeds that are mottled with orange, green or brown colors.

### **Habitat**

Native to the United States but considered a noxious weed in some states. Can be found in ditches, disturbed sites, railroads, river banks and roadsides.

### **Reproduction**

By seed.

### **Similar**

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Once it is about 12 cm tall, post emergent herbicide are ineffective. Tolerant of high mowing, can be controlled by cultivation.

### **Credits**

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