

## Horse nettle

### *Solanum carolinense*

#### Description

Fruits and foliage contain alkaloid and increases throughout the growing season. This species is listed under [Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation](https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest/plant-health-certification-and-export/seed) 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

Variably 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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