

Silverleaf nightshade

Solanum elaeagnifolium

Description

This plant is poisonous to both humans and cattle. This species is listed under Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation as a restricted noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Habit

Deep-rooted, erect, native perennial that reaches a height of about 3 ft.

Leaves

Alternate along stems, petioles up to 5 cm. long; blades oblong to lanceolate, 3-10 cm. long and 4-25 mm. wide, prominent veins.

Stems

Erect, branched above, covered in straight, fine, reddish prickles 2-5 mm. long.

Flowers

Showy, purple in color, in few-flowered clusters at branch tips, borne on prickly pedicels 2 cm. long;





calyx 5-lobed, 1 cm. long; corolla flat and roundish, shallowly 5-lobed, 2-3 cm., violet or blue; stamens bright yellow.

Fruits and Seeds

Berries globose, 9-14 mm. in diameter, yellow to brownish in color; each berry contains brown, lense-shaped seeds.

Habitat

Native to southern United States and northern Mexico. Can be found in disturbed sites, crop lands, roadsides, streambanks and marshes.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively via root fragments.

Similar

Carolina horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*).

Credits

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