

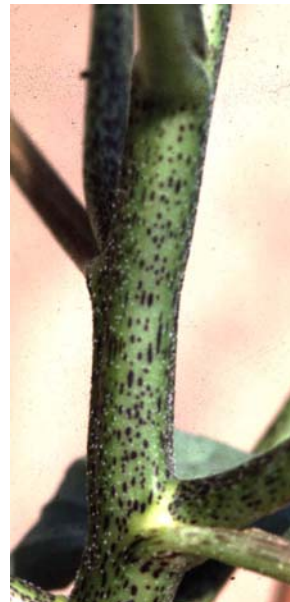
Common Cocklebur



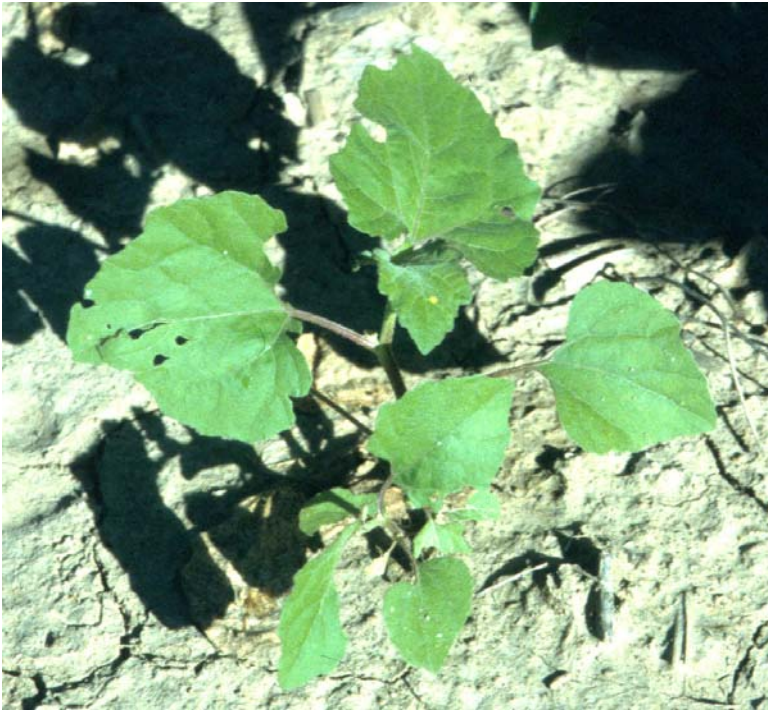
Seedling. Key characteristics: bur may be attached; cotyledons are thick and fleshy; base of hypocotyl purple-colored.



Seedling. Key characteristics: first true leaves are opposite, later leaves are alternate; leaves have three distinct veins.



Stem. Key characteristics: rough-textured with purple spots.



Vegetative plants. Key characteristics: leaves have very coarse "sand paper" texture, often lobed, coarse teeth along the margins, and long petioles.



Fruit. Key characteristics: sharp spines; each bur contains two seed.



Seed.

Life cycle: summer annual.

Toxic Plant: All animals may be affected; cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry are more at risk than horses and pets. The seeds and seedlings contain the highest quantity of toxin, yet the whole plant can be considered toxic. The seed burs can cause mechanical damage. Symptoms of poisoning are variable because the plant contains several different toxins, but may include gastrointestinal irritation, weakness, breathing difficulty, behavioral changes, cardiac abnormalities and death. Ingestion of as little as 0.75 percent of an animal's body weight can be lethal.