

# Cocklebur, *Xanthium strumarium*



**Identification:** Four- to five-foot bushy annual. Large triangular, rough, glandular leaves. Flowers produced in leaf- axils. Blooms in summer, female flowers become bur with hooked bristles.

**Habitat:** Cultivated fields, pastures, barnyards, esp. sandy soils. Seeds germinate quickly with receding water

**Animals Affected:** All livestock

**Toxin Family:** Sulfated glycoside (Carboxyatractyloside) causing liver necrosis.

**Other:** Death occurs rapidly. Seedlings and seeds are very toxic, but toxins are not present in mature plants. Seeds are rarely eaten as they are contained in a bur. Toxicity remains in hay and silage. Burs also cause economic damage to wool producers.