

Hemp Dogbane, *Apocynum cannabinum*



Identification: Perennial, growing up to six feet. Leaves opposite or whorled, oblong and entire. Stems often red and exude milky sap. Small white-ish flowers arranged in clusters at branch ends. Fruit is a long (3-8 inches), narrow pendulous pod, hanging in pairs, reddish-brown at maturity. Seeds have tufts of hair, similar to milkweed.

Habitat: Roadsides, waste areas, open spaces and non-cultivated agricultural lands; along streams and irrigation ditches

Animals Affected: Especially horses

Toxin family: Dogbane contains the glycosides apocynin and cymarin in the milky sap (resin), contained in all plant parts.

Other: Can cause cyanogenic glycoside poisoning. Livestock are rarely poisoned by dogbane, and will eat it only when lacking other forages.