

Hyoscyamus niger

Black Henbane

Other common names:
henbane, hog's bean, insane root

Solanaceae, the nightshade family
Category: CONTROL



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Annual or biennial; can grow up to 3 feet tall
- Leaves are alternate, gray-green, 2-8 inches long and covered with hairs; coarsely toothed with prominent veins
- Flowers are off-white with a deep purple center and veins
- Seeds are egg-shaped and pitted
- Plant has a foul odor

Background

- Native to Eurasia; introduced as an ornamental and medicinal plant
- Inhabits disturbed open sites, non-crop areas, pastures, fence rows, abandoned gardens, and rights-of-way
- Reproduces by seed
- Livestock avoid it because of unpleasant odor and bitter taste
- **Toxic to humans and livestock if ingested**

Photo Credit:

J.M. DiTomaso, The Regents of the University of California

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