

Black Henbane Fact Sheet

Hyoscyamus niger

Solanaceae Family



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Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Cream to green with purple throats and 5 lobes.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Small, black seeds. Black henbane is a prolific seed producer, with each plant having the capacity to produce up to half a million seeds.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Fetid smelling leaves 8 inches in length covered with greasy hairs.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** Spring to early fall.
- ❺ **Life cycle:** Annual or biennial that can grow up to 3 ft. Native to the Mediterranean.

Impacts:

- Common weed on rangeland, pastures, roadsides, and waste areas.
- Outcompetes native plants for sunlight and other resources.
- Although it is poisonous to most mammals (including humans), it has sedative properties that have been used medicinally for hundreds of years.

Control:

- For small infestations, hand-pulling or digging can be effective if the taproot is entirely removed. To prevent seed dispersal once pulled, plants with mature fruits should be bagged and disposed of in the trash. The area must be monitored for new seedlings for at least four years. Wear gloves and protective clothing when handling the plants to prevent rashes.
- Black henbane can also be disked or plowed and does not tolerate other forms of cultivation.
- For larger infestations, or when mechanical or cultural methods are not viable, selective chemical applications can be effective. Herbicide options include: glyphosate, dicamba, 2,4-D and metsulfuron, and picloram.
- No biological control options are currently available.



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*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



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