

Buffalobur

Solanum rostratum

Buffalobur is a new invader to Asotin County. Although the five-lobed yellow flowers are long gone, the seeds are nearing maturity. These plants pack a lot of spines that cover the entire plant, but the seeds have an especially bountiful supply. The plant is erect and bushy sometimes reaching two feet in height. The leaves are alternate and two to six inches long. Each leaf is irregularly cut into five to seven lobes. Additionally, the leaves are covered by short yellow star-like hairs.

Buffalobur usually establishes itself as a contaminant of garden seeds or other valuable agricultural crop seeds. It can grow on hard dry soils or rich, moist cultivated fields. Its spiny seeds make it a hitchhiker on animals and machinery. It adheres especially well to automobile tires.

Buffalobur is a native to the Midwest. Its name dates back to the time when buffalo roamed freely in the Great Plains. These aggressive plants grew abundantly in the buffalo wallows and were transported for miles in the shaggy coats of the buffalo.

Luckily, this annual responds well to herbicides like 2,4-D. It can also be controlled through close cropped mowing. Variousy called Kansas thistle, Texas thistle, or Mexican thistle this weed is now in Asotin County.

