

# BLACK HENBANE

*Hyoscyamus niger*

Solanaceae, the nightshade family

Category: Control

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## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Black henbane can form dense monocultures that displace native species and agricultural crops, decreasing biodiversity and reducing crop yields.
- It is toxic to both humans and livestock, and has been used as a poison and hallucinogen in rituals. However, it is still used as an ingredient in traditional and homeopathic medicines.

### Description

- Annual or biennial that can grow up to 3 feet tall.
- The entire plant is sticky, hairy and odorous.
- Alternate, gray-green leaves are coarsely toothed with prominent veins.
- Yellow-brown, 5-lobed flowers are funnel-shaped and have deep purple centers and veins.
- Urn-shaped capsules contain hundreds of flattened, brown-grey, deeply pitted seeds.

### Introduction and Movement

- Black henbane is native to Eurasia and was introduced as both an ornamental and medicinal plant.
- Inhabits disturbed sites such as roadsides, building sites, field margins, and pastures.
- Introductions still occur due to the seed trade and its rapid seed production allows it to easily disperse via human and animal vectors, and is often found as a seed contaminant in hay and some crops.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Black henbane and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To:

**KNOW WHAT YOU GROW  
& KNOCK IT OFF!**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/28251>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV](http://INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV)  
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

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## DISTRIBUTION MAP

