

Yellow Star Thistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*



Identification: Two- to Three-foot annual; flowers July-August. Rigid branching stems covered with cottony hairs. Lobed basal leaves. Stem leaves entire and covered with cottony hair. Yellow flowers; single at branch ends and with 3/4" thorny bracts. Germinates fall and spring.

Habitat: Grasslands, rangelands, pasture, crop edges, roadsides and disturbed areas

Animals Affected: Horses

Toxin Family: Neurotoxins

Other: Horses get "Chewing Disease" (inability to chew). Plant is toxic when green and dried and horses will develop a preferential liking for the plant. Horses must eat large quantities for toxins take effect. The plant is not toxic to sheep or cattle, which can be used for control.