

D. Black Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)

Key Characteristics:

Black henbane, a member of the nightshade family, was introduced from Europe as an ornamental and medicinal herb. Blooming June through September this weed may be an annual or biennial and grows from 1 to 3 feet tall.

Leaves are shallowly-lobed to coarsely-toothed and have sticky hairs. **Flowers** are brownish-yellow with a purple center and purple veins and have a foul odor. **Fruits** are about 1 inch long with 5 lobes. Black Henbane is **poisonous** to both livestock and humans.

Locations:

This plant is relatively rare in Pitkin County, with most outbreaks happening in areas where heavy earth-moving has occurred. Black henbane plants have been identified on Brush Creek Road, near the Aspen Recreation Center, along Hwy 82 near the Maroon Creek Bridge, and at the Pitkin County Airport.

Biological control:

No known biological controls at this time.

Cultural control:

Good vegetative cover substantially reduces chance of infestation. Beware of potentially contaminated fill, dirt, or hay. Avoid overgrazing, as this weed is a common invader of overused pasture.

Mechanical control:

Hand pull or dig from moist soil, to remove the entire taproot system. Be sure to bag plants that have been removed during or after flowering to prevent potential seed spread.

Chemical control:

There are effective herbicide options for Black Henbane control. Contact the Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about products, rates, and equipment calibration.

