

Common Cocklebur

Xanthium strumarium

Sunflower Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Plants have erect stems growing 2-4' tall
- ❑ Stems are spotted and very rough
- ❑ Leaves are alternate, triangular or heart-shaped and serrated
- ❑ Flowers are small and in the axils of the upper leaves
- ❑ Fruits are 1' long with hooked prickles and 2 curved spines at the tip

Biology and ecology

- An annual reproducing by seeds
- Common cocklebur is a native to North America
- Both the seedlings and seeds are toxic to livestock
- Flowering occurs from July to September
- It can now be found worldwide

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological - No known biological control in our area

Cultural - Plant competitive grass or other cover crops

Mechanical - Small populations can be effectively hand pulled

Chemical -the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) does not have it listed as a problem weed but other sources list mixtures with either dicamba or clopyralid are listed to work on common cocklebur

Where found – To date we have found it only along the banks of the Colville River near Meyers Falls. It has been reported in other locations along the river but we have not verified these sightings.

