Plant: Black henbane (Hyoscyamus niger)

Identification: Black henbane is a thick taprooted annual or biennial that can grow up to 3 feet tall. It is part of the nightshade family and highly toxic to humans and animals. It has alternating leaves, graygreen in color and are oblong to lance shaped. The flowers are funnel shaped and white with deep purple-black centers. The seeds are in egg shaped capsules, and are less than 1mm across. It reproduces by seed, which generally travels less than 5 yards. It can be found on roadsides, fields, fencelines, rangeland, and rocky areas.

Defense: As with most annuals, mechanical control can be effective. You can dig up this plant or mow it. Do not mow if it has gone to seed. Dried plants still holding seeds can also be burned. Chemical control is very effective with products such as Escort XP and Milestone. There is currently no biological control agents available.

Always read and understand the label and restrictions of any pesticide you are using. The label IS the law.

