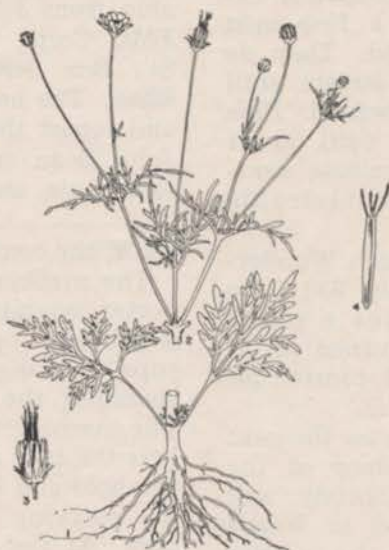


Spanish Needles

(*Bidens bipinnata*)



Spanish needles is an annual which reproduces by seeds (1). This weed is found in open woods, waste places, in gardens, fence rows, and grain stubble fields. It is a very troublesome weed in the South.

There are several other species of the genus *Bidens* which may be confusing. They are all generally known as stick-tights, beggar ticks, bur-marigolds, etc., because the matured seed heads and seeds will stick to fur or clothing. *B. bipinnata* has deeply lobed bi-pinnate leaves. Many other species have simple, deeply lobed leaves. For reference other species are: *B. frondosa*, beggar-ticks; *B. cernus*, stick-tights; *B. polylepis*, beggar-ticks; *B. vulgata*, tall beggar-ticks; *B. connata*; and *B. comosa*.

Stems (2) of Spanish needles are erect and smooth. The plant branches in upper portions. Stems are a rather drab green.

Leaves have petioles that are borne opposite on the stem. Bipinnate leaves have leaflets which are also deeply lobed. An example of a singly pinnate leaf is black locust with its many oval leaflets.

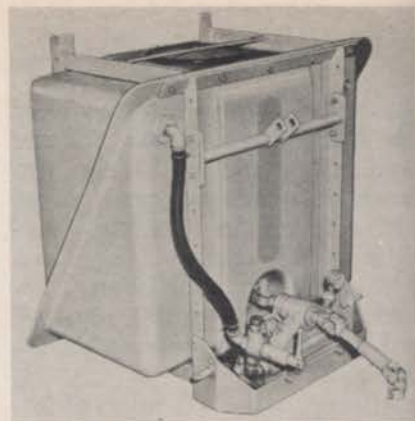
Spanish needles has a composite flower head (3) of many tiny disc flowers around which are a row of yellow petal-like ray flowers. Ray flowers take no part in seed production. Spanish needles is in the family Compositae along with daisies and asters.

Seeds are produced beneath the disc flowers after pollination. At maturity the seed head is a mass of sharp, pointed spines, ready to attach to anything which passes by. Each 1/2 inch long seed has 3-4 stiff spines (4). Other species of *Bidens* may have 2 to 4 spines on each seed.

Spanish needles is susceptible to 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T and silvex as well as nonselective herbicides more likely to be used where this weed is found.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

(DRAWING FROM NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PUBLICATION NO. 36, USDA EXTENSION SERVICE)



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