

PRICKLY LETTUCE

(*Lactuca scariola*)



Prickly lettuce, also known as wild lettuce, compass plant, milk thistle, horse thistle, and wild opium, commonly grows along roadsides and fence rows, and in wastelands, usually in light, dry soils. This species is also found in meadows and gardens.

Introduced from Europe, prickly lettuce has become widespread in the northern United States and southern Canada. The plant is an annual or winter annual and reproduces by seeds.

Stems are erect, growing from 2 to 6 feet tall. Stiff, hollow stems are prickly on the lower part (1) and contain a milky juice. The taproot is large and stalky, and has few branches.

Bluish green leaves grow alternately from the stem, and have prickles on the lower surface of the midrib and the leaf edges. Lower leaves are lobed and tend to twist upwards from the stem. Upper leaves are small and straighter.

Yellow ray flowers, growing in the upper part of the plant (2), are about 3/16 inch across and occur in open terminal clusters.

Dark-brown, flattened seeds (3) are contained in mature flowers. One plant may produce 27,000 seeds. Seeds are about 3 mm. long, are vertically ridged, and bear a tuft of white bristles (called the parachute) at the upper end. Seeds are occasionally found in grass seed.

Prickly lettuce can be controlled by application of 1/2- to 3/4-lb. of 2,4-D acid per acre to young plants.

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

PSU Primer Offers Basic Pesticide Facts

"Pest Control, Pesticides, and People," a circular just completed by the Agricultural Extension Service, Pennsylvania State University, is designed to inform the public on pesticides. But its easy-to-understand contents should have value to WTT readers as well.

Attractively designed in magazine style, the circular distills a kaleidoscopic view of pesticides into a short, unvarnished story, according to Herbert Cole, Jr., agricultural chemicals coordinator at the University.

In 13 brief chapters, the information piece tells of legal controls, the proper and safe use of pesticides, and efforts to improve pest control methods while reducing their hazards.

Copies are available from Agricultural Extension Service, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Purdue Tours to Highlight '66 Midwest Nurserymen Meet

Four days of tours, talks, and research shows are included in the 1966 Midwest Nurserymen's Summer Meeting plans. Starting Monday, August 8, the program on Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, Ind., will give nurserymen a close look at Purdue horticultural facilities.

Meeting hosts are the Indiana Association of Nurserymen, in cooperation with the Purdue Department of Horticulture.

Highlights of the event will be the tours through Purdue's horticultural research projects.

After registration Monday morning, delegates may take the afternoon to view equipment demonstrations by exhibitors. Then on Tuesday the slate of events includes landscape tours of residences, businesses and industries, and a tour through the Purdue research farm. Delegates will also see research in progress on chemical weed control and mulch.

Purdue tours Wednesday will show delegates research laboratories, greenhouses, controlled

environment chambers, and the school's turf research plots.

On Thursday, Aug. 11, speakers will discuss "Present and Future Impact of Highway Beautification on the Nursery Industry."

A ladies program is planned, and family entertainment will be available at Purdue and in Lafayette.

Write for registration information to Dr. Donald L. Schuder, Agriculture Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. 47907.

Weed Control Helps Young Trees Endure Drouth

As many tree planting projects fail from inadequate control of weeds as from improper planting techniques, inadequate site preparation, or the planting of unadapted species.

Marvin W. Smith, Extension forester at the University of Minnesota, points out that in some seasons and in certain regions, precipitation can barely support tree growth. As a result,

he explains, unwanted vegetation on planting sites seriously threatens the young tree seedling which is forced to compete with weeds and grasses for soil moisture, nutrients and growing space.

Effective weed control in windbreaks, shelterbelts, Christmas tree plantings, and forest plantations can be accomplished through either mechanical cultivation or the use of herbicides.

Mechanical weed control methods do have the disadvantage of causing injury to root systems of trees, and they can be delayed because of wet weather. Repeated cultivations can be expensive.

Of the new selective chemical herbicides developed in recent years, Simazine and Amazine are perhaps the most popular, Smith says.

Simazine acts against a broad spectrum of grasses and broad-leaved weeds, and is safe for use around most trees and shrub species planted in windbreaks and forest plantations.

Chemagro Phytotoxicity Study Is Now Available

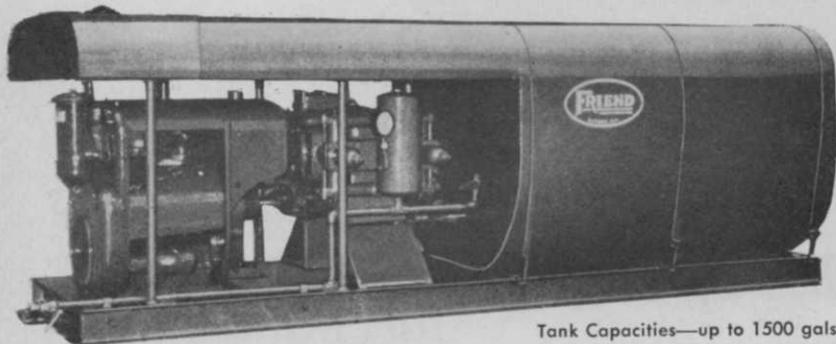
Phytotoxic effects of Dexon, Morestan, and Meta-Systox-R on a wide group of ornamentals are shown in a new book on a recently completed Chemagro Corp. study.

Plant tolerance toward the three chemicals is presented in the 48-page book, prepared by Monrovia Nursery Co., in cooperation with Chemagro. Research director Conrad Skimina of Monrovia, conceived and conducted the tests.

Dexon is a non mercurial fungicide; Morestan, a carbonate miticide; and Meta-Systox-R, a foliar-applied systemic. Over 800 varieties of ornamental plants and shrubs were tested, including azaleas, camellias, conifers, ferns, palms, and some broad leaf plants.

Copies of the book covering the joint study are available free to WTT readers. Write to Public Relations Dept., Chemagro Corp., P. O. Box 4913, Kansas City, Mo. 64120.

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