

## BLACK NIGHTSHADE

(*Solanum nigrum*)



Black nightshade, an annual that reproduces only by seeds, is found throughout the United States and southern Canada. Introduced from Europe, some forms of this poisonous plant are probably native to North America.

Sometimes known as deadly nightshade, garden nightshade, and poison berry, the plant is seen in cultivated fields, gardens, waste places, and is frequently found in moist, shady spots.

Black nightshade grows from an erect or spreading stem to a height of 1 to 2 feet and is widely branched (1). Oval leaves are about 1 to 3 inches long with wavy edges. Leaves are attached alternately to the stem.

Berries (2) are green, turning black when ripe. The smooth and round berries are about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch in diameter and contain a number of small, round, flattened, yellow seeds. Seeds are about  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch in diameter and have a pitted surface.

White, 5-lobed flowers (3) are borne in drooping clusters on long stalks occurring between the leaves. Flowers are about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch across and look somewhat like tomato blossoms.

Leaves, stems, and green berries of the plant contain a toxic alkaloid which has been known to poison livestock and is regarded as poisonous to man. Though ripe berries and dried plants are less toxic, the best advice is to eradicate the entire plant whenever it is found. Black nightshade appears late in the season, but produces seeds quickly. Plants should be destroyed to prevent birds from spreading the seed.

In some areas, only fair control of black nightshade has resulted from application of 1 pound of 2,4-D per acre, and other areas report the plant resistant to 2,4-D. Silvex, applied at the same rate, may give good control. Also, simazine at  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 pound per acre as a preemergence will give good control.

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)

in formulating the recommendations.

The booklet provides such information as eventual growth of the plant, method of planting, recommended sites, and advisable trimming practices. "Living Screens for America" can be obtained from the American Association of Nurserymen, 835 Southern Building, 15th & H Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Cost is 50c each, or 25c in quantities of 25 or more.

## Rain Bird Has New Sprinkler Heads

A new line of spray head sprinklers is now being marketed by Rain Bird, which claims its "Space 15" sprinklers can be set 15 ft. apart, reducing the number of sprinkler heads required and saving up to 40% in pipe, sprinklers, trenching, and labor costs.

Three models make up the line: model 2800 pop-up sprinklers; model 2600 surface spray heads; and model 2400 shrubbery spray heads. All models are available in square sprinkling patterns as well as full, half, and quarter-circle patterns. Special nozzle design to eliminate burred edges and insure precise part-circle patterns with wider sprinkler spacings, all-brass construction, adjusting screw to regulate pressure and radius of water flow, and clog-resistant swirl plates are features of the new Rain Bird line.

Literature on "Space 15" sprinklers is available from Rain Bird, Glendora, Calif. 97140.



Model 2600 surface spray head is one of three new "Space 15" Rain Bird sprinklers.