Invasive Species Factsheet-Common Cocklebur
Prepared by: Aaron Ide

Species Common Name: Common Cocklebur
Species Scientific Name: *Xanthium strumarium*

Native Range and Introduction: This species is native to North America, but has spread to areas that it originally was not found, primarily by human pathways. Locally moved by animals and livestock as the burs attach to them and are carried to a new site.

Description: Annual plant growing to about four feet tall. Stems are rough and spotted. Leaves are alternate, rough, and triangular shaped. It has small flowering heads, which turn to its signature burs at maturity. Burs start off green and turn brown as the fruit matures. The spotted stem is important when trying to identify seedling plant, as they are toxic to livestock.

Ecological and Economic Impacts: Usually do not have a large ecological impact, beyond the fact they will quickly established on disturbed sites, elongating the process of revegetation by native species. Economically, they can be seen invading crop fields leading to yield lost, can cause loss of livestock from toxicity, and can lower the price of wool that are entangled with burs.

Status in Wyoming: Common Cocklebur is on Campbell County Declared Noxious Species List along with four other counties in Wyoming.

Distribution in Wyoming: Common Cocklebur is found in all counties in Wyoming besides Sublette.

Control Options:

Mechanical: Being an annual hoeing, pulling, chopping, or disking could be effect forms of management.

Chemical: Milestone (Aminopyralid) is a great choice at a lower rate, also 2,4-D could be used for a quicker burn down especially if they are getting close to the burs reaching maturity

Cultural: As many infestations are around dried up stock ponds, if you had a way to keep ponds full into September this would prevent seeds in the soil of the stock pond to germinate. Also, deferring use of this water source could prevent livestock from moving seeds to other areas/water sources.

Integrated Weed Management: If the infestation is on/around a stock pond, you could keep that pond full if possible through September and treat edges with an early summer herbicide application and check back 3-4 weeks later and implement mechanical control on any remaining weeds.

Online Resources:

URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xanthium_strumarium
URL: http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/natural%20areas/wr_X/Xanthium_spinosum-strumarium.pdf
Image 1 URL: https://delange.org/CommonCocklebur/CommonCocklebur.htm
Image 2 URL: http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/cocklebur.htm

Image 1-Plant with burs formed

Image 2-Spotted Stem

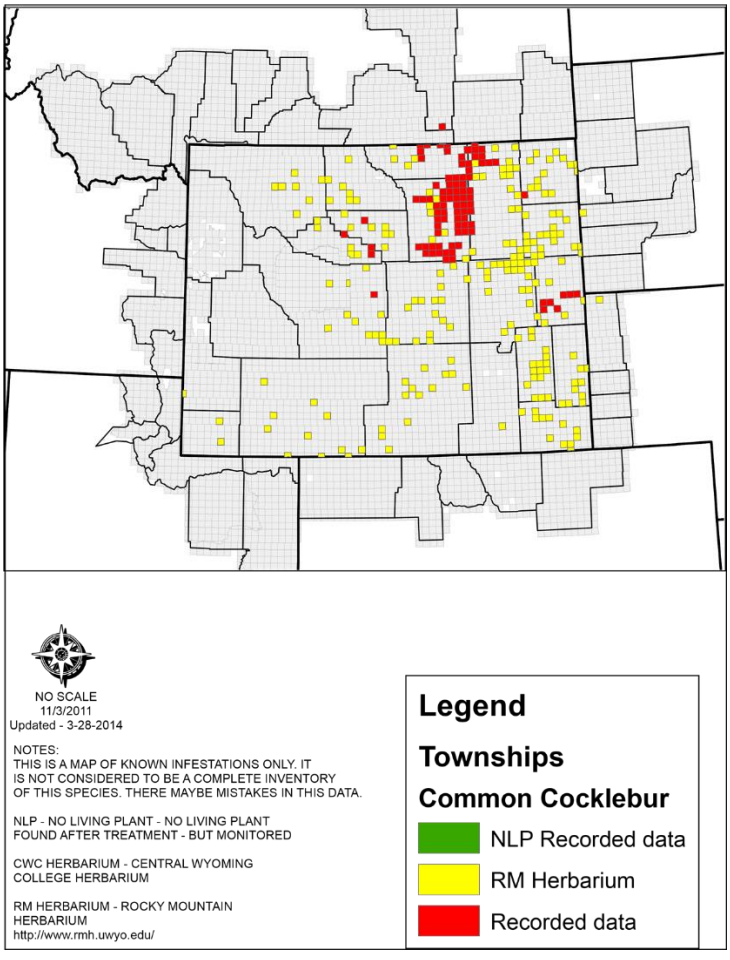

Figure 1-Common Cocklebur Distribution in Wyoming and Surrounding States
URL: http://wyoweed.org/images/Weed_Maps/County_Declared_Weed_maps/Common_cocklebur.pdf