

## Cocklebur

**Genus/species**      *Xanthium strumarium*

**Family**              **Asteraceae**

**Distribution**        **Throughout most of US**

**Comments**      This species may grow to be over four feet tall in a variety of waste places and disturbed areas, especially those that are moist. It has large triangular leaves that may be six inches long. The male flowers are found in clusters near the top of the plant while the female flowers are located at the bases of leaves along much of the length of the plant. Pollination (by wind) occurs from July to September. The fruit is in the form of a bur covered with hooked spines, allowing it to be spread about by clinging to fur and other materials much as “Velcro” does.



## English Plantain

<b>Genus/species</b>	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	
<b>Family</b>	Plantaginaceae	
<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Most of United States</b>	Possibly lacking from some areas of the southcentral US, including S Texas; introduced from Eurasia
<b>Comments</b>	This is a common weed of lawns and roadsides. The flowers are borne on heads (well-known to children as natural “bullets”!) whose supporting stalks protrude from the mass of swordlike leaves having distinct longitudinal veins. Blooming takes place throughout the growing season. The rather conspicuous stamens that ring the seed heads produce allergenic pollen that is sometimes collected by bumble bees that bounce from one seed head to another. However, this pollen becomes sufficiently airborne to result in allergy.	



## Burweed Marsh Elder *or* Giant Poverty Weed

**Genus/species**     *Iva xanthifolia*

**Family**             Asteraceae

**Distribution**        **Central, W and NE US**     E Washington southward to NE California  
NE California southeastward to N Texas  
N Texas northeastward to central Illinois  
Central Illinois northwestward to E Washington  
New Jersey to Maine

**Comments**        This species is a common plant along roadsides, cultivated fields or along streams in much of the central part of the US. It may grow to be 6 feet tall. The specific name refers to the shape of the larger leaves, which are rather triangular or fan-shaped, resembling those of the Cocklebur. The undersides of the leaves are lighter in color than the upper surfaces. Young plants of Burweed Marsh Elder may resemble sunflower plants at a similar stage of development, but the rather inconspicuous greenish flowers depend upon wind-pollination.



## Red Sorrel *or* Sheep Sorrel

**Genus/species**      *Rumex acetosella*

**Family**              **Polygonaceae**

**Distribution**        **Throughout US; naturalized from Eurasia**

**Comments**        This small plant makes its appearance in early spring, and is seldom much more than a foot in height. Its small leaves (generally less than 2 inches long except for those at the base of the plant) typically have a pair of distinct lobes at the base. The flowers (male and female on separate plants) are tiny and yellowish to reddish. Pollen is dispersed by the wind. Red Sorrel can grow in moist ditches or in dry gravelly areas.

