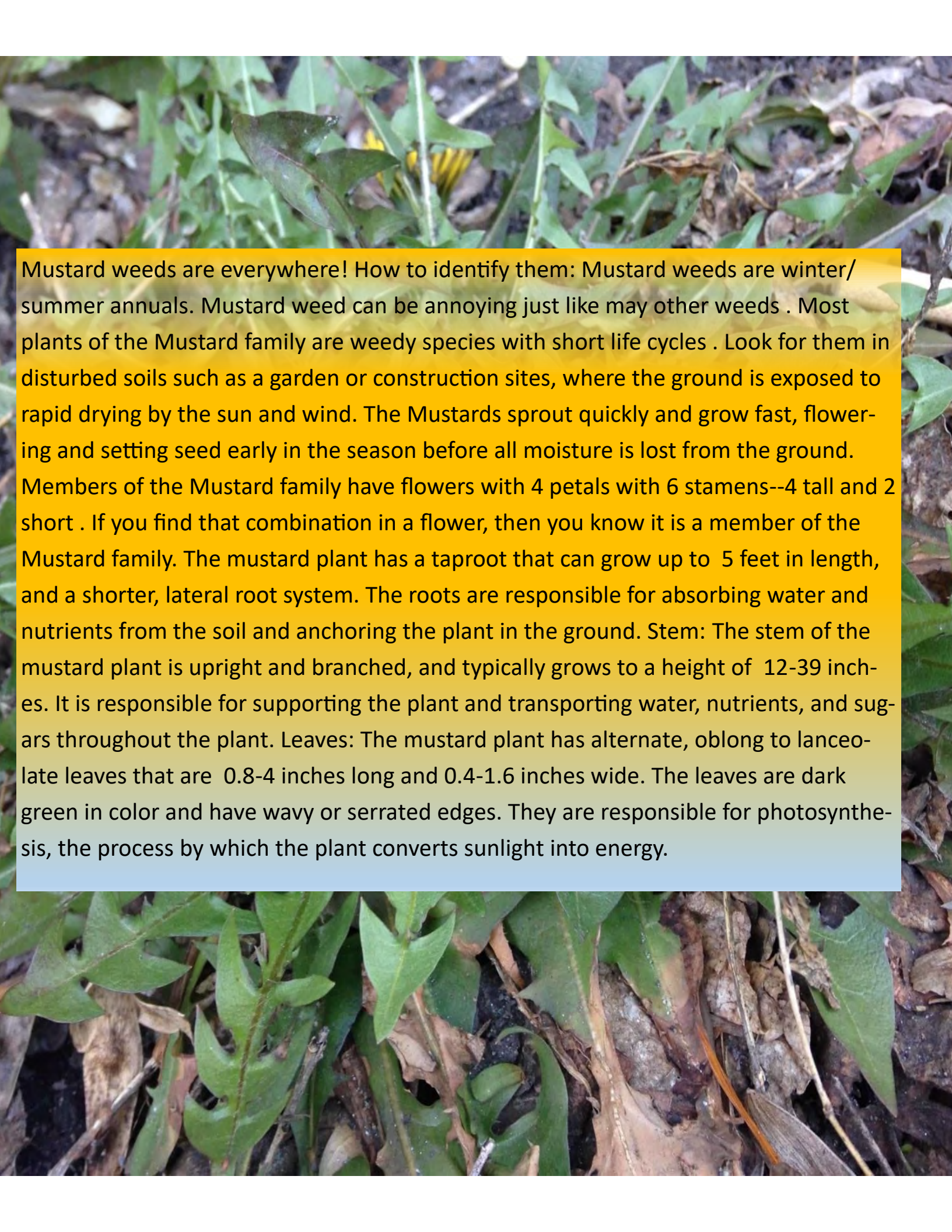




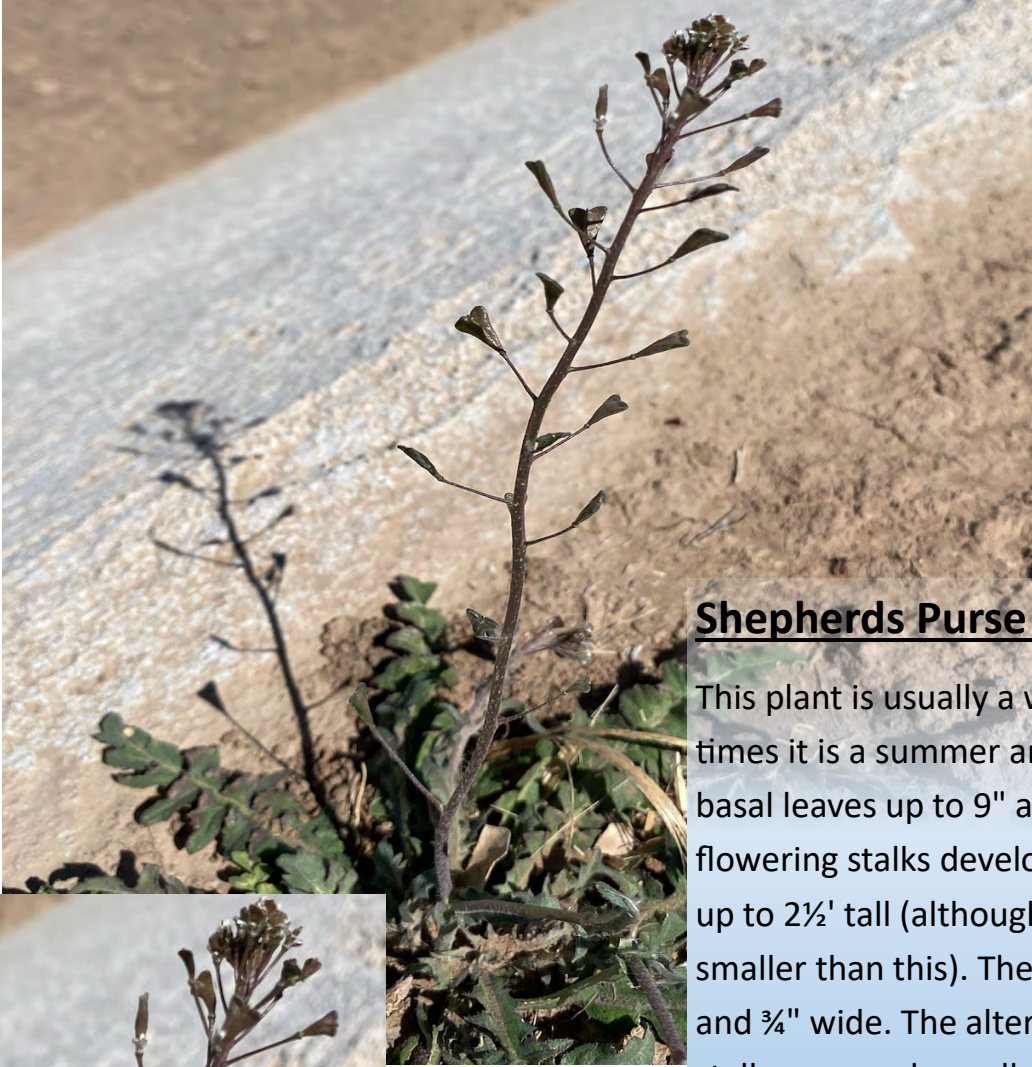
Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District

2023 Spring Newsletter





Mustard weeds are everywhere! How to identify them: Mustard weeds are winter/summer annuals. Mustard weed can be annoying just like many other weeds. Most plants of the Mustard family are weedy species with short life cycles. Look for them in disturbed soils such as a garden or construction sites, where the ground is exposed to rapid drying by the sun and wind. The Mustards sprout quickly and grow fast, flowering and setting seed early in the season before all moisture is lost from the ground. Members of the Mustard family have flowers with 4 petals with 6 stamens--4 tall and 2 short. If you find that combination in a flower, then you know it is a member of the Mustard family. The mustard plant has a taproot that can grow up to 5 feet in length, and a shorter, lateral root system. The roots are responsible for absorbing water and nutrients from the soil and anchoring the plant in the ground. Stem: The stem of the mustard plant is upright and branched, and typically grows to a height of 12-39 inches. It is responsible for supporting the plant and transporting water, nutrients, and sugars throughout the plant. Leaves: The mustard plant has alternate, oblong to lanceolate leaves that are 0.8-4 inches long and 0.4-1.6 inches wide. The leaves are dark green in color and have wavy or serrated edges. They are responsible for photosynthesis, the process by which the plant converts sunlight into energy.



Shepherds Purse (Mustard family)

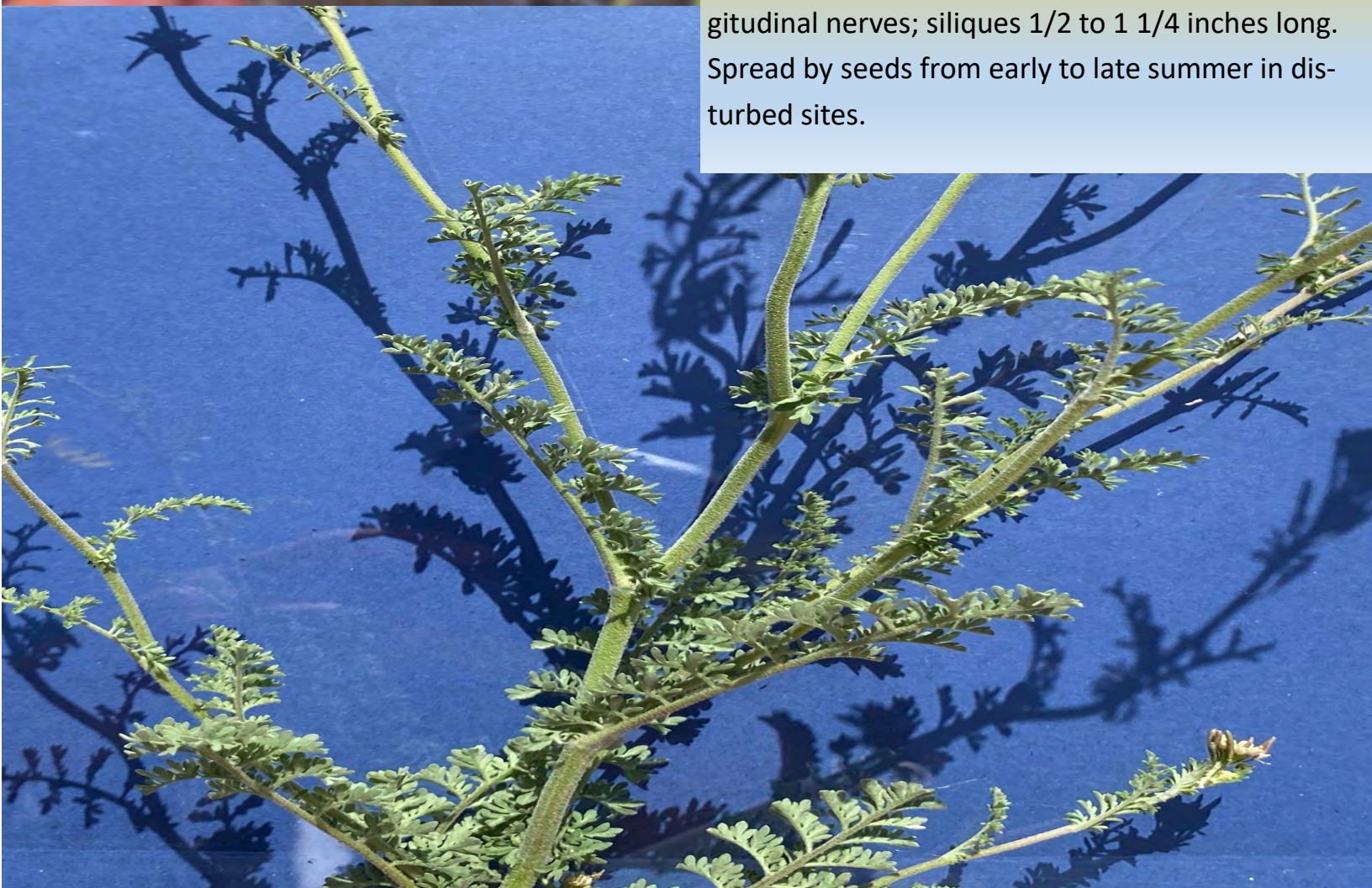
This plant is usually a winter annual, although sometimes it is a summer annual. It consists of a rosette of basal leaves up to 9" across, from which one or more flowering stalks develop that are little branched and up to 2½' tall (although individual plants can be much smaller than this). The basal leaves are up to 4½" long and ¾" wide. The alternate leaves on the flowering stalks are much smaller in size and widely spaced. Both the basal and alternate leaves are medium to dark green. The terete stalks are light green to dark





Flixweed (mustard family)

Flixweed grows 8 to 24 inches high; leaves alternate 2 to 3 times pinnately compound; segments very narrow or linear; petals very small, yellow or greenish-yellow; seed pods portioned with 2-3 longitudinal nerves; siliques 1/2 to 1 1/4 inches long. Spread by seeds from early to late summer in disturbed sites.



Hoary cress (mustard family)

Leaves/stems: Mostly single stems (6-24 inches tall, are hairy with some branching near top, green oblong to narrow shape.

Flowers: numerous small, white fragment flowers with four pedals, rounded or flat top inflorescences at stem ends; seed pods are round, oval or heart shaped, light green to brown with a short projection.



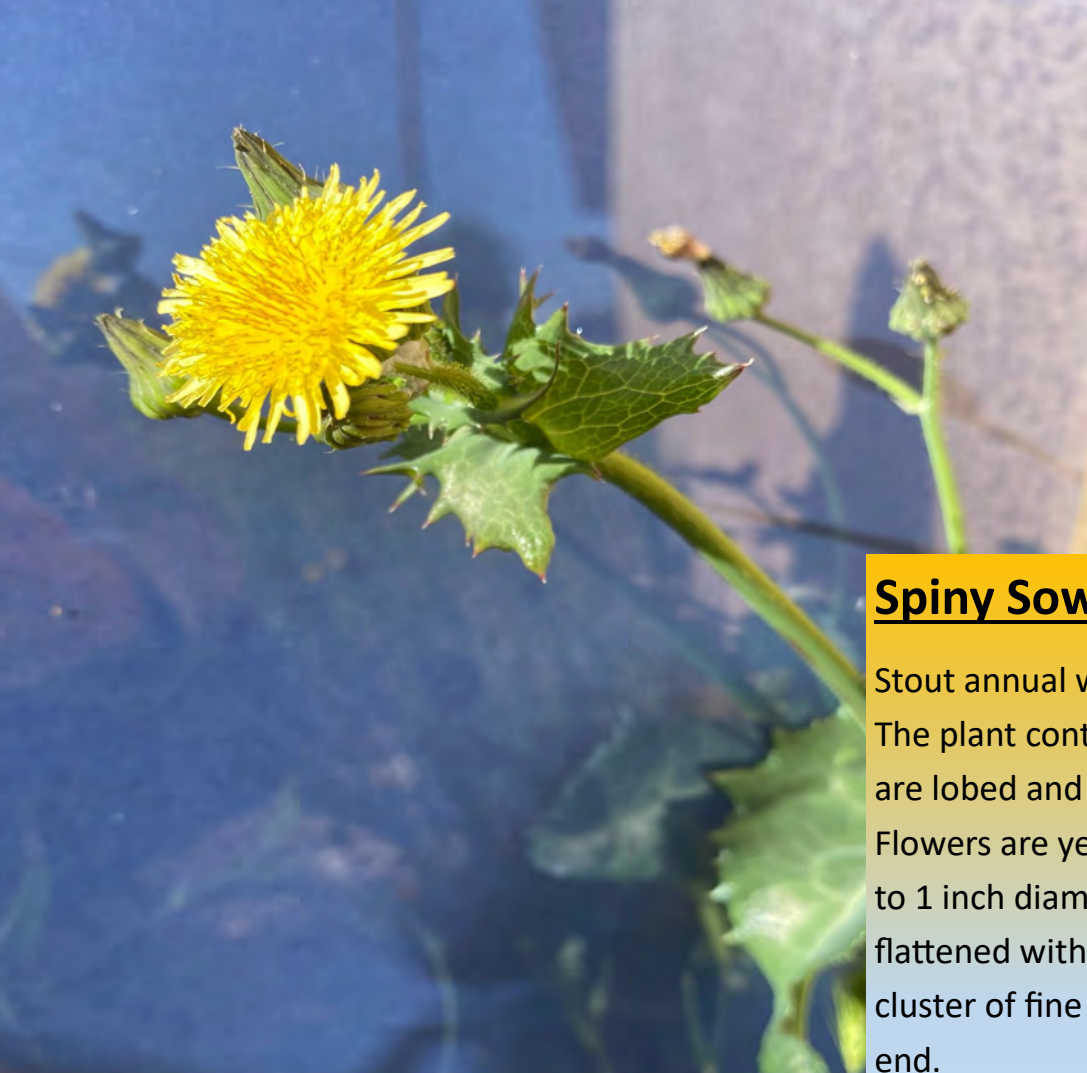


London Rocket (Mustard family)

A winter annual grows erect usually 1 1/2 to 2 ft tall; leaves grow 1 to 4 inches long; stems and leaves are smooth; stems are often branched; leaves are 1 to 4 inches long, usually deeply divided with large terminal lobes.

Flowers are small, yellow and in small clusters at the stem tips. Found along roadsides, fence rows and ditches. As well as irrigated crops.





Spiny Sowthistle (Daisy family)

Stout annual with stems 1 to 5 feet in height. The plant contains a milky juice. Lower leaves are lobed and toothed, the margins very spiny. Flowers are yellow, strap-shaped and are 3/4 to 1 inch diameter. Fruits are reddish brown, flattened with 3 to 5 ribs on each face ,with a cluster of fine white hairs attached to upper end.





Arizona Scorpion weed

(poisonous)

Found on rocky hillsides in sandy gravelly soils, plains and mesas. Oil from hairs on the stem, leaves and seed pods can cause a rash similar to the effects of poison ivy . Has a onion like smell.

Flowers : Easily recognized by the white corolla with pink/purple stripes down the center of each lobe arranged in finely haired, terminal coils that often resemble a "fiddleneck".



!! Weed to watch for !!

On April 2nd 2023 Hilton Ranch went up in flames; it is unknown how it started . The Hilton Fire is located near Escondida Lake. NM Fire states “The fire is estimated at 187 acres. Fuels include salt cedar, brush and grass.”

In 2007 the Socorro SWCD cleared 15.9 acres of Salt cedar on the Holmes property located just north of the Hilton ranch. Socorro SWCD’s reasons for Salt cedar removal are not only to clear out non-native phreatophytes (which include Salt cedar, Russian olive, Siberian elm, Tree of Heaven, and other non-native riparian species deemed by the State of New Mexico to be noxious and/or invasive) but to also have fire breaks in place. Without this clearing of Salt cedar, the fire would have continued to spread and burn through areas with an high fuel load. The Socorro SWCD continues to work with landowners to remove non-native woody species, reduce the heavy fuel load and protect property and structures.



Holmes Property



2007





2007 Before Salt Cedar





2007 of Salt Cedar removal





2010 follow up





2010 follow up





Hilton Fire 2023

April 2nd ,2023



Photo by El Defensor Chieftain



Hilton fire

April 11th 2023





Hilton fire

April 11th 2023

