



Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District

Fall 2022 NewsLetter

Local Noxious Toxic Weeds

There are toxic weeds that have been sighted and are killing our livestock and wildlife. These local toxic weeds include: Sandwort drymary, Two-grooved milkvetch and Inkweed drymary . Recently there was a sighting of Sandwort drymary and Two-grooved milkvetch (LocalWeed) on a ranch and livestock were down.

Sandwort drymary

Recently found and observed Sandwort drymary is a deadly weed for all livestock and wildlife. Sandwort drymary is a spreading, perennial herb that can be as long as 8 inches. It has a long, slender taproot, and it reproduces by seed. The leaves are opposite and have smooth margins. They are linear and 0.2 to 0.6 inches long, gradually becoming smaller towards the top of the stem. The flowers are white with five petals that are each 0.15 to 0.25 inches long. The petals have six to eight lobes. The flowers occur individually in the spaces between the leaf and the stem. This deadly weed was found recently North of the Gila National Forest between Magdalena and Datil south from Winston to Reserve. It was observed that it takes small amounts of the plants to be consumed and death occurs within 2-3 hours.

There are plenty of different plants like Sandwort drymary to watch for, such as Loco weed and Inkweed, that is a Thicketleaf drymary. Locoweed (Two-grooved milkvetch) is found on foothills and in semiarid regions. It grows in tufts or clumps, 8 to 30 cm high. Locoweed flowers resemble sweet peas. Blossoms may be blue, purple, yellow, or white. Each stem contains numerous leaves and a leaflet on its tip. Locoweeds are commonly found on mountains, foothills, and plains and in semiarid desert regions. Growth starts in late fall, winter, or early spring, depending on locality, species, and moisture. Livestock and wildlife signs of poisoning appear after 2 to 3 weeks of continuous grazing on the plant. When animals graze this plant it grows prostrate and may not grow erect. Locoweed has four effects on livestock: 1) neurological damage, 2) emaciation, 3) reproductive dysfunction, and congestive heart failure when grazed at high elevations. Inkweed drymary, related to Sandwort drymary is a smooth, hairless, short-lived annual with blunt pointed, circular leaves usually about as wide as they are long. The plant grows close to the ground in a circular pattern of 5 to 10 inches or 12.7 to 25 cm in diameter. Stems are nearly prostrate and range from 4 to 8 inches or 10 to 20 cm in length. Small, white flowers are produced in the leaf axils. Bloom time occurs from March to August. Seeds are olive green to black in color and teardrop shaped. Habitats include saline soils, desert flats, river bottoms, and playa margins. It is generally not locally abundant except on disturbed sites. Its toxic agent is unknown. All parts of dry and green plants are toxic. Most poisoning occurs on overgrazed ranges. Plants are most often grazed in the early part of the day when they are swollen with water. Signs appear 18 to 24 hours after a toxic dose is ingested. Death usually occurs less than 2 hours after the first clinical signs occur. There are many other weeds to watch for when letting livestock graze. We can help identify weeds on your farm or ranch.

How to Reduce Loss of Livestock

Remove animals from these toxic weeds: Sandwort drymary, Locoweed and Inkweed drymary. This will help prevent intoxication and will keep them from influencing other animals to start eating the toxic weeds.

Another way to reduce loss, is to treat the areas with herbicide on growing or budding weeds. Contact Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at 575-838-0078, we can help identify troublesome weeds; and help suggest what to do when you come across these deadly weeds that are killing our livestock and wildlife.





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Sandwort drymary

Locoweed
(Two-grooved milkvetch)



It grows in tufts or clumps, 8 to 30 cm high. Locoweed flowers resemble sweet peas. Blossoms may be blue, purple, yellow, or white. When animals graze this plant it grows prostrate and may not grow erect.

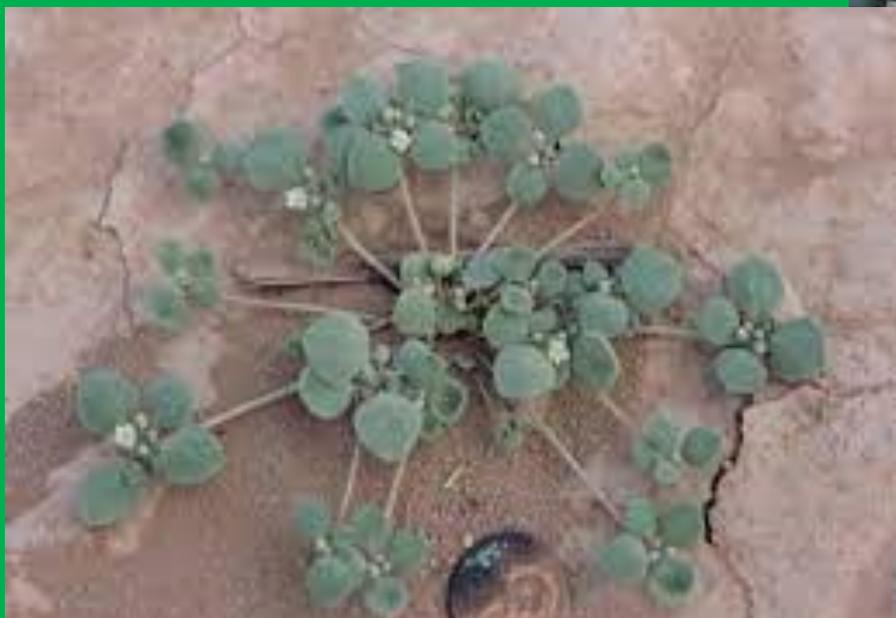
Dried and green rat-tleweed showing characteristic purple flowers, inflated pods, and leaves. Purple flowers appear blue when dried.





Inkweed, Thicketleaf drymary

A smooth, hairless, short-lived annual with blunt pointed, circular leaves usually about as wide as they are long. The plant grows close to the ground in a circular pattern of 5 to 10 inches or 12.7 to 25 cm in diameter. Stems are nearly prostrate and range from 4 to 8 inches or 10 to 20 cm in length. Small, white flowers are produced in the leaf axils. Bloom time occurs from March to August. Seeds are olive green to black in color and tear-drop shaped .



Important Dates

October

10th -Socorro SWCD Board Meeting

31st –Halloween

November

8th-Election Day

11th-Veterans Day (office closed)

14th – Socorro SWCD Board Meeting

24th –25th Thanksgiving Day (office closed)

December

14th -Socorro SWCD Board Meeting

26th- Christmas Observed (office closed)

2nd -New Year's Day Observed (office closed)

