

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

Velvetleaf
Abutilon theophrasti

Other common names: China jute, buttonweed, butterprint, pie-marker, Indian mallow

USDA symbol: ABTH
ODA rating: B



Introduction: This weed is native to Asia. It was introduced to North America as a potential fiber crop in the mid-1700s and now is common in many cropping systems in the United States.

Distribution in Oregon: The first recorded site of velvetleaf was in 1928 in Yamhill County. In the Willamette Valley, velvetleaf has often been associated with dairy operations due to importation of cotton seed from the South for cattle feed.

Description: Velvetleaf is an annual that blooms June through October. It grows two feet to seven feet tall and is completely covered in soft hairs. Its leaves are alternate, heart-shaped and five or more inches in width. Velvetleaf flowers are yellow, five petaled and solitary and grow in the leaf axils.

Impacts: Velvetleaf has been a serious weed in corn and soybeans but newer herbicides have allowed for better control. It is commonly found in cultivated fields, gardens, fencerows, and waste areas. It is an alternate host for tobacco streak and turnip mosaic viruses. The seeds retain their viability in the soil for more than 50 years, making control difficult.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available at this time.

