

BURWEED MARSHELDER OR PRAIRIE RAGWEED

Cyclachaena xanthifolia
"Iva xanthifolia"

FAMILY: Compositae
TRIBE: Ambrosieae
GENUS: Cyclachaena
SPECIES: xanthifolia
COMMON NAMES: Prairie Ragweed
Burweed
Horseweed
Carelessweed
"Burweed Marshelder"
Giant Poverty



POLLEN GRAINS: Spheroidal, 17 to 19 microns in diameter. Spines short and blunt, the germinal furrow long, extending almost from pole to pole.

POLLINATING PERIOD: July and August

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Washington, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas eastward to Missouri and Illinois.

ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE: Very important where abundant.

Prairie ragweed is a coarse annual growing to six or seven feet tall. The leaves are rough textured resembling those of cocklebur. The upper leaves are simple with dentate margin, the lower leaves larger and becoming three-lobed. Numerous flower heads occur in naked terminal panicles and axillary spikes. Prairie ragweed produces large quantities of pollen which in most cases interacts with ragweed. A native of the Great Plains, this weed favors disturbed soil and is often abundant along roadsides and in waste places in inhabited areas.

More often than not this plant is listed in hayfever literature as "Burweed Marshelder, Iva xanthifolia." Most botanists now consider that there are generic differences between this plant and the Ivas; so the better nomenclature is Cyclachaena xanthifolia.



Iva xanthifolia
(Burweed Marshelder or Prairie Ragweed)