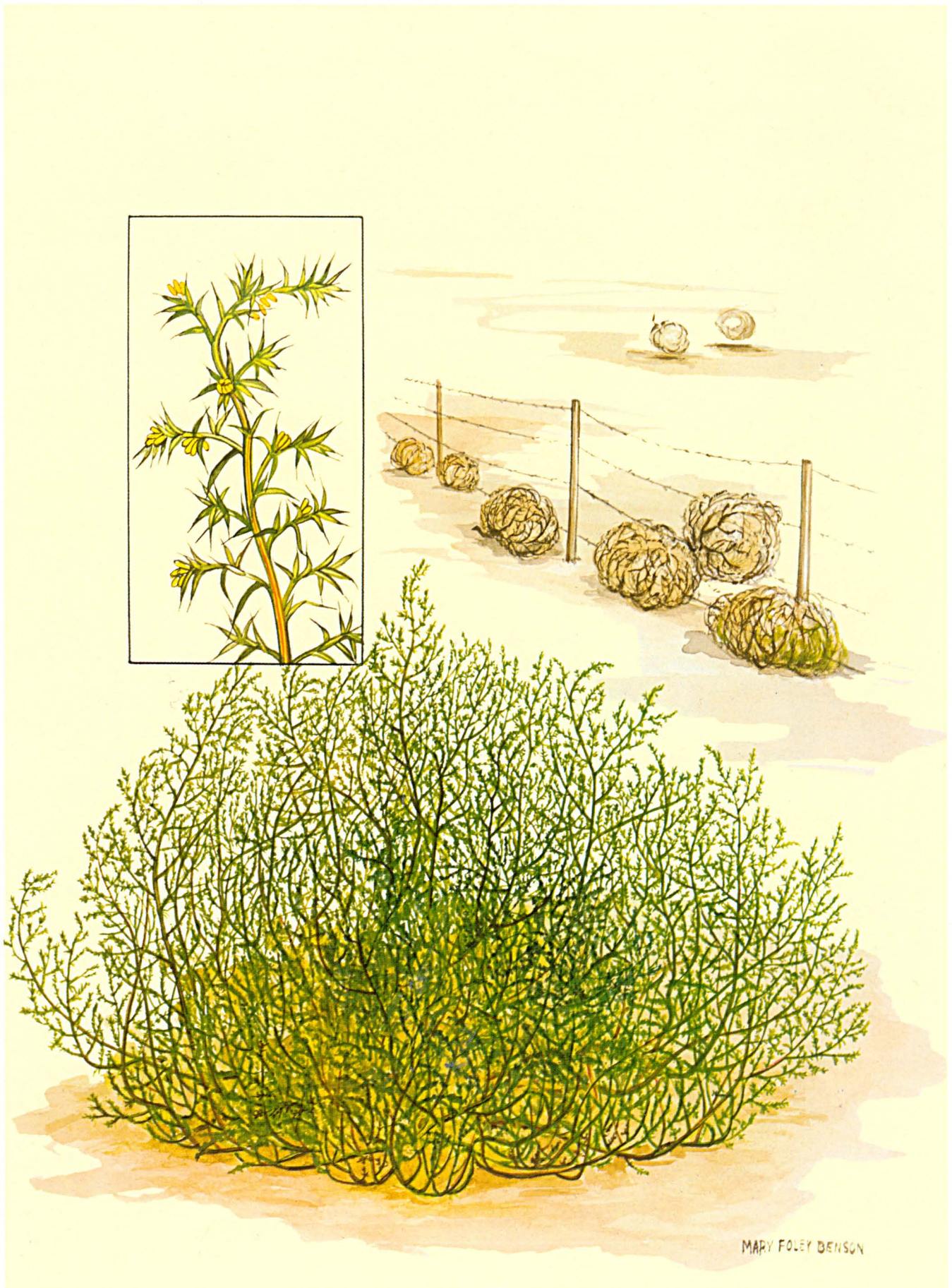


RUSSIAN THISTLE

Salsola kali (L.) var. *tenuifolia*

- FAMILY:** Chenopodiaceae
- GENUS:** Salsola
- SPECIES:** kali
Some authors refer to this species as *Salsola pestifer* (A. Nels.)
- COMMON NAMES:** Russian Thistle, Tumbleweed, Saltwort
- POLLEN GRAINS:** Spheroidal, 27 microns in diameter with pores about 4 microns in diameter and about 7 microns apart.
- POLLINATING PERIOD:** June to September
- DISTRIBUTION:** Dryer regions of the West and Midwest and to lesser extent in saline waste areas of the East coast.
- ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE:** Generally considered the most important hayfever plant in the chenopod family.

Russian Thistle is an annual herb one to four feet tall. It is intricately branched to form a dense tangle and usually grows in a sphere-like shape. Leaves are small (1/4") linear and spine tipped. Flowers are inconspicuous and occur throughout the plant. In the fall of the year the individual plant dries and breaks off at the root. Because of their sphere-like shape winds will roll the plant over long distances of open land scattering the seed for future growth. Large accumulations of these dried plants are observed in fence corners or other obstructions. From this action the plant is often called Tumbleweed.



Salsola Kali (L.) var. *tenuifolia* or *Salsola pestifer* (A. Nels.)
(Russian Thistle)