Black Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)

**POISONOUS**

**Description**
A biennial plant that is covered with soft, sticky hairs with an unpleasant smell. It has a thick, fleshy cylindrical root. Stems can reach to 115 cm high. Leaves soft and dull; the upper side dark green; the underside lighter, grayish, fluffy-haired, especially along veins and leaf margin. Basal leaves long-stemmed and stalk leaves are sessile, half-enclosing the stalk, leaf edges are shallowly lobed and veins are conspicuous. Flowers sessile, massed in zigzagged arrangement on inflorescence at the stalk end. Bracts sessile, mostly oblong or narrowly-lanceolate, with few teeth or entire. Calyx 10-22 mm in length, cup-shaped, with 5 pointed tips. Flower of 5 petals, is up to 4.5 cm in length, funnel-shaped, pale yellow with netted purple veins and purple-violet in the throat. Fruit is a capsule with a prominent cover. CAUTION: Plant contains several alkaloids, and it has caused rare poisoning in humans, cattle, poultry, and swine.

**Key Identifiers**
- Pale yellow flowers, with purple netted veins and purple throat
- Persistent fruit capsules with 5 pointed papery cover
- Zigzagged flowers that are along one side of inflorescence

**Location in Canada**
Black Henbane has been reported in Alberta across to Prince Edward Island in Canada.

**Resources**

**Similar species**
Black henbanes are unlikely to be confused with other species because of its distinctive flowers and fruits.