

Featured Pest: Wild Cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata*)

A native annual reproducing from seeds it is pest mostly of ditches, low moist areas, shelterbelts, yard sites, stream banks and fence lines.



Figure 1. Flowering wild cucumber

Scouting: Wild cucumber can easily be distinguished by its vine-like twining habit, bright green leaves, three-branched tendrils and male flowers in long clusters.



Figure 3. Seedling with broad fleshy cotyledons with seed pod



Figure 4. Twining vine with 5-lobed leaves and tendrils

Weed Act Status: Wild cucumber is a noxious weed in Manitoba.

Herbicide Resistance: Herbicide resistance is not known in wild cucumber.

Herbicide Control Options: The location of wild cucumber in wetlands and shelterbelts or tree lines can make control difficult. It can form large patches and smother desirable plants. Very few labelled herbicide control options exist in Canada, pre-emergents may be most effective at preventing seeds from germinating.

Similar Weeds: Very few weeds can be mistaken for wild cucumber. Goldencreeper (*Thladiantha dubia*) resembles wild cucumber seedlings but goldencreeper is a perennial reproducing from tubers and has hairy leaves. Bur-cucumber (*Sicyos angulatus*) is an annual with 3 to 5-shallow lobed leaves.



Figure 2. Seeds and mature fruit pods

Biology: Seedling cotyledons are large fleshy and oval in shape. Leaves are bright green, usually 5-lobed and most leaves have a long branching tendril at the same node as the leaf. Separate male and female flowers emerge at the same node. The female flowers are smaller on short stalks. The male flowers are in long clusters. The seed pods are distinctive with 2.5 to 5.0 cm in size, producing 4 large brown to black mottled seeds which emerge from openings at the end of the seed pod.

