

This document is from the *Invasive Species of Idaho* website
at <https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov> as accessed on 23 February 2019.

Centaurea solstitialis

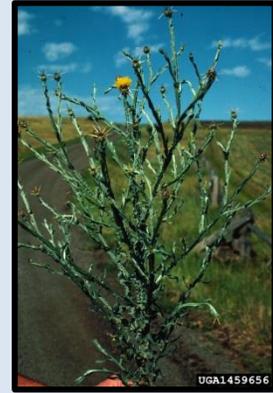
Yellow Starthistle

Other common names:

St. Barnaby's thistle, cotton-tip thistle

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

Category: CONTAINMENT



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Winter annual; grows 2-4 feet tall
- Rosette leaves are deeply lobed
- Foliage grayish to bluish-green and covered with fine white cotton-like hairs
- Lower stem leaves are sometimes pinnately lobed
- Stem leaves are alternate and mostly linear or narrowly oblong
- Leaf bases extend down stems and give the stems a winged appearance
- Flower heads are bright yellow and develop singly at the end of the branches
- Yellow spines up to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long extend from the lower bracts

Background

- Native to the Mediterranean and Asia
- Inhabits rangelands, canyon grasslands, pastures, rights-of-way and disturbed areas
- Reproduces by seed
- **Toxic to horses; causes chewing disease**

Photo Credit:

Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

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