

the plant, others will eat it only when insufficient desirable forage is available, while others may eat it even though they are well fed. The development of poisoning is dependent entirely upon the amount the animal eats.

Once the plant has been allowed to scatter its seed on the ground, many years are required to exterminate it, as some seed lie in the soil for years before sprouting. Planting infested areas in cultivated crops greatly assists in elimination of the plant.

Treatment.—Animals which have developed symptoms of crotalaria poisoning rarely recover, regardless of treatment.

Jimsonweed, Jimsonweed datura, Jamestown weed, Thorn apple

Description.—Jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium* L.) is a large annual weed, three to five feet tall, with several widespreading branches near the top of the stem. The main stem and branches are smooth and green or purplish. The alternate leaves are smooth, light green and stalked; the leaf-blades, 3 to 8 inches long, are thin, ovate to elliptic, pointed at both ends, and bear large, irregular, sharp-pointed teeth along the margins. The erect flowers, borne singly in the leaf axils, are short-stalked, funnel-shaped but flaring out into a five-pointed star and white or pale bluish-purple in color. The four-celled fruit is a dry, hard capsule, ovate, green, becoming pale, brown, and covered with hard, sharp prickles. The pod, about 1 inch long, splits into four sections, each containing numerous seeds. (Fig. 6.)

Habitat and Distribution.—Jimsonweed is found nearly all over the state, but more commonly in the northern areas. It occurs in cultivated fields, gardens, around farm buildings, particularly old barn lots, roadsides and refuse heaps, nearly always on fertile soil.

Toxicity.—Jimsonweed contains the toxic alkaloids, hyoscyamine, atropine, and scopolamine, about 0.3 percent of the dry weight of the plant. All parts of the plant, particularly the seeds, are poisonous. Cattle are poisoned most frequently, but occasionally sheep, horses and hogs are affected. Children have been poisoned by eating the fruit or sucking the flowers. Ten to 14 ounces of the green plant will produce fatalities in cattle. The toxicity of the plant is not destroyed by drying and poisoning occasionally has resulted from eating the weed mixed with hay.