

fencerows, in old fields and gardens, and especially along the edges of hammocks.

Toxicity.—The leaves and unripe berries contain a saponin-like alkaloidal glucoside, solanin. It has a paralytic action on the motor and respiratory centers of the brain. The greatest concentration of alkaloid is contained in the unripe berries; the ripe berries often are consumed by birds and humans without harm.

The green plant and unripe berries have been reported poisonous to all classes of livestock, including chickens.

The amount of alkaloid in the plant is said to vary with soil, climatic and growth conditions.

Symptoms.—Weakness, stupor, staggering gait, extreme nervousness, staring eyes, dilated pupils and paralysis are symptoms of nightshade poisoning in cattle, sheep and hogs. The progress of the symptoms usually is rapid and poisoned animals often are found dead.

Prevention.—The plant normally is an annual growing from the seed only, except in the southern counties; it should be removed and destroyed before the berries form. Eradication by this means is not difficult.

Treatment.—No treatment is known for nightshade poisoning.

Sorghum, Sorgho, Kafir, Dura, Milo, Feterita, Shallu, Kaoliang, Broomcorn, Sudan Grass

Description.—Sorghum (*Sorghum vulgare* L.) and its varieties compose a large group of coarse annual grasses, with upright stems 2 to 15 feet in height having 7 to 18 joints. There may be several lateral shoots at the base. The leaves, one at each joint, are long, narrow, sharply toothed along the margin, and have a prominent midrib, white, gray or yellow in color. The flower cluster or seed head varies from 5 to 18 inches in length (longer in broomcorn) and may be dense or open and have the branches erect, spreading or drooping, but always in whorls. The seeds and kernels of the various kinds of sorghum vary in size, shape, and especially in color, being white, pink, yellow, buff, brown or reddish brown. (Fig. 22.)

Habitat and Distribution.—Sorghum and its varieties are seldom found except where they have been planted, although spilled seeds may occasionally produce plants along lanes and around farm buildings. They are widely planted in the northern part of the state for syrup, grain for feeds, hay and ensilage.