



# Jimsonweed *Datura stramonium* L.

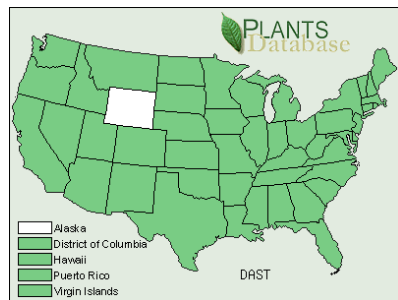
**Common Names:** jimsonweed, common thorn apple, thorn apple, devil's apple, devil's-trumpet, dewtry, fireweed, Jamestown lily, Jamestown weed, mad apple, moonflower, stinkwort

**Native Origin:** India, Central America

**Description:** Jimsonweed is an erect annual herb in the potato family (*Solanaceae*) growing up to 5 feet tall. Stems are stout, hollow, smooth, branching, and green or purple, with inconspicuous hairs. Smooth leaves are ovate with green or purplish coloration, coarsely serrated along edges, wavy, and 3 to 8 inches long. Leaves have an unpleasant odor when slightly bruised. The funnel-shaped flowers appear May to September. Flowers are white or purple with a 5-pointed corolla up to four inches long, set on short stalks in the axils of branches, and have a pronounced odor. The prickly four-segmented seed pods burst open from the tip when ripe, exploding to scat numerous poisonous black, pitted, and kidney-shaped seeds. It has a thick and extensively branched taproot system.



**Habitat:** Jimsonweed grows in most habitats, but thrives in high-nutrient soil. It is found in pastures, barnyards, fields, waste ground, cultivated areas, roadside and railroad right-of ways.



**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CT, HI, MD, PA, TN, and WV.

**Ecological Impacts:** This plant grows rapidly and competes for water and nutrients. It will flower and produce seed even at 4 inches high when under stress.

**Toxicity:** All parts of Jimsonweed are poisonous to both humans and animals. Symptoms of intoxication in humans include dry mouth, warm and flushed skin, hallucinations, delirium, increased respiration and heart rate, dilated pupils, decreased digestive tract motility, and amnesia.

### Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Small patches can be hand pulled before seed is set. Seedlings are readily killed by tillage. *Note:* Mature plants may regenerate from cut down stumps.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Follow label and state requirements.
- **Biocontrol-** The beetle *Lema trivittata* causes severe defoliation and reduces seed production. The fungus *Alternaria crassa* has been tested as a potential biocontrol agent.



**References:** [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org), <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm), [www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed\\_id/datst.htm](http://www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/datst.htm), [www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/herbhunters/jimson.html](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/herbhunters/jimson.html), [www.missouriplants.com/Bluealt/Datura\\_stramon](http://www.missouriplants.com/Bluealt/Datura_stramon), [www.weedscience.org/images/weedid/75.jpg](http://www.weedscience.org/images/weedid/75.jpg), [www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/jimsonweed/jimsonweed.html#jdescrip](http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/jimsonweed/jimsonweed.html#jdescrip), [www.botany.uga.edu/PPG/Plant%20Summary%20Pages/datura\\_stramonium.htm](http://www.botany.uga.edu/PPG/Plant%20Summary%20Pages/datura_stramonium.htm), [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/WEEDS/jimsonweed.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/WEEDS/jimsonweed.html), [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datura\\_stramonium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datura_stramonium), <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/organicweeds/downloads/datura%20stramonium.pdf>