



## Weed of the Month: Silverleaf Nightshade

Welcome to our "Weed of the Month" feature, dedicated to highlighting the impact of noxious invasive weeds on our local ecosystems. This month, we're shining a spotlight on Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*), a tenacious plant that requires our attention for its potential harm to both natural habitats and agricultural landscapes.

### Identification:

Silverleaf Nightshade, also known as White Horsenettle, is a perennial herbaceous plant with distinctive characteristics. It features lobed, spiny leaves and produces clusters of small, star-shaped purple to lavender flowers. The plant is known for its prickly stems and spines, which can cause irritation upon contact.



Top Left- Flower of Silverleaf Nightshade: Size ranges around 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter

Top Right - Full body of Silverleaf Nightshade in blooming stage



### Invasive Behavior:

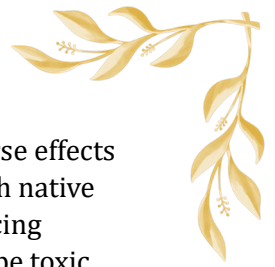
Originally native to the Americas, Silverleaf Nightshade has become a formidable invasive species in various regions. It adapts well to a range of environments, from open fields to disturbed areas, and is particularly adept at colonizing roadsides. Its ability to produce numerous seeds and form dense stands makes it a challenging weed to manage.

Middle Left- Fruit of Silverleaf Nightshade

Bottom Left- Seeds of Silverleaf Nightshade

Bottom Right - Example of old ripe fruit of Silverleaf Nightshade with seeds within





**Impact:**

The presence of Silverleaf Nightshade can have adverse effects on both biodiversity and agriculture. It competes with native vegetation, displacing crucial plant species and reducing overall plant diversity. In agricultural settings, it can be toxic to livestock and can significantly reduce pasture productivity.

Left- Rosette form of young Silverleaf Nightshade  
Right - Silver leaves and spines of Silverleaf Nightshade



**Control and Management:**

Effectively managing Silverleaf Nightshade requires a comprehensive approach. Manual removal, using protective gear due to its spines, can be effective for small infestations. Herbicides may be necessary for larger areas, but their application should be carefully planned to minimize collateral damage to non-target species.

**Prevention:**

Preventing the spread of Silverleaf Nightshade is key to its control. Routinely inspect and maintain your property for any signs of this invader. Be vigilant for any signs of this weed in your area and report sightings to the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office at **(530) 822-7500**. Currently, this weed has been spotted east of HWY 99, south of Obanion Rd, and county staff are working toward eradication of the infestation.

By staying informed and taking proactive measures, we can work together to curb the spread of Silverleaf Nightshade and protect our native ecosystems. Join us next month for a new "Weed of the Month" feature, where we'll highlight another noxious invasive plant and share tips on how to address it.

For more information about Silverleaf Nightshade feel free to visit the University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources Statewide Invasive Pest Management (UC IPM) website at: [https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/silverleaf\\_nightshade.html](https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/silverleaf_nightshade.html)

For more information about our other county programs, visit our website at: <https://www.suttercounty.org/government/county-departments/agricultural-department>

Thank you for your dedication to preserving our environment and agricultural land!

- Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office

