

## *Curlycup Gumweed* *Grindelia squarrosa*



Curlycup gumweed is unpalatable to cattle, sheep, and horses, though sheep will occasionally crop flower heads in the absence of other forage. Tannins, volatile oils, resins, bitter alkaloids, and glucosides give it an unpleasant taste. If it is consumed, it may lead to poisoning due to the selenium the plant can accumulate. It is resistant to grazing and drought.

Curlycup gumweed is an erect, biennial, tall forb, growing 1 to 3 feet tall, with 1 to several branched stems. It grows from a taproot, branching above. Starts growth in early spring, flowers July to August, reproduces from oblong, cream colored seeds. It has numerous, yellow flowers. There are bracts at the base of the flower which are shiny, sticky, and curved downward. Curved bracts around the flower secrete a sticky resin giving the plant its name.

Leaves alternate and are oblong with toothed edges, gland-dotted, and gummy. It favors dry areas; but, grows on moist soils that lack other vegetation. It is most common in dry prairies, waste places, roadsides, railroads, depleted rangelands, and abandoned croplands. It often forms almost pure stands. It increases under drought conditions.

