

FIG. 33.

## PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE, FIELD SOW THISTLE, OR CORN SOW THISTLE.

*Sonchus arvensis* (L.).

A perennial weed, 1 to 3 feet high, with large and vigorous rootstocks, full of a milky white juice. The stems are rough, and the growth of the lower part of the plant is rank. The leaves are deeply cut and furnished with small spines, and at their base clasp the stem. The flowers are bright yellow, of fair size,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. across, and quite similar to those of the Dandelion. They close up in strong sunlight. The calyx, or flower cup, is green and covered with yellowish bristles. The seed is brown, in color and about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. long, with both longitudinal and transverse markings. To the top, a tuft of silken hair is attached (Fig. 33,a). An average plant produces about 2,000 seeds.

Time of flowering, June-August.

Time of seeding, June-August.

Dispersal—by running rootstocks, and the scattering of seeds by the wind.

The Sow Thistle draws much water from the soil and is a heavy feeder. It is less troublesome on stiff clays than elsewhere.

*Note.*—Fig. 33, nearly natural size, shows the difference between Annual and Perennial Sow Thistles.

*Eradication.*—The method used for the eradication of the Canada Thistle is recommended for this weed.