

ANNUAL SOW THISTLE, COMMON SOW THISTLE, OR MILK THISTLE (*Sonchus oleraceus*, L.).

An annual weed introduced from Europe. It grows 2 to 3 feet high, has fibrous roots and leafy stem, and is not quite so large or coarse as the Perennial Sow Thistle. The leaves are much lobed, and have short, soft spines. Each head is many-flowered; but the "flowers" are small, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. across, and of a pale yellow color. The seeds are brown, dull or roughened, and about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. long, with 5 longitudinal ridges finely wrinkled crosswise, and attached to the top is a large tuft of fine hairs united at the base.

Time of flowering, June-August.

Time of seeding, July-August.

Dispersal—Chiefly by the wind.

*Remedy.* Cultivate stubble-ground and sod early after harvest and throughout the fall as for Canada Thistle (see Fig. 56). Follow with hoed crop, preferably corn or roots, and cultivate thoroughly throughout the growing season. Use the cultivator, instead of the plow, after roots or corn; sow a crop of grain and seed with clover; if practicable, pull the weeds by hand out of the grain crop; take one or two crops of hay or pasture, and again break up the sod, plowing, harrowing and cultivating as for Thistle.

PRICKLY LETTUCE (*Lactuca scariola*, L.)

Prickly Lettuce is a native of the old world, and has invaded this Province both from New York and Michigan. It is a winter annual; it springs from seeds in the fall, and survives the winter. The plant grows to a height of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet; the stem is leafy and usually smooth; the leaves are oblong and slightly pointed, often clasping at the base; the under surface of the midrib of the leaf is spiny; Heads are numerous and yellow.

Time of flowering, July-September.

Time of seeding, August-October.

Dispersal—By means of its seeds, which are provided with a pappus or tuft. An ordinary plant may produce 8,000 seeds.

*Remedy.* The best methods of destroying the weeds are: 1. To mow repeatedly as it comes into bloom, or earlier. 2. To cultivate thoroughly with a hoed crop. By this method the seeds in the soil will be induced to germinate. They should not be covered deeply in plowing. Mature plants should be cut down and the seeds be blown about and scattered by the wind.

Farmers should be careful to buy only clean clover, millet and grass seeds, and the weed inspector should insist on the fulfilment of the law, and have all fence corners, roadsides, and waste lands cleared of the pest.

WILD LETTUCE, SOUTHERN THISTLE, OR TRUMPET-MILKWEED. (Erroneously called Prickly Lettuce.) (*Lactuca canadensis*, L.).

An annual or biennial plant with a leafy stem, which may attain a height of seven feet. The leaves are deeply lobed, terminating in an acute point, and have stalks or petioles, the lower ones being smaller than those near the top of the stem. The stem branches at its summit into a compound flower-cluster. The flowers are small, yellow in color, and open only a few at a time. The seed is dark brown.