

*Mexican Poppy: *Argemone mexicana/ochroleuca*

Origin:

Native to Mexico.

Form:

A robust, erect, branched, prickly, annual plant.

Habitat:

Widely distributed in the pastoral areas, mainly along river systems, moist flats and sand dunes.

Description:

A bluish-green plant that grows to 1m in height. It has large, pale yellow flowers, hollow stems and seed capsule. However prior to flowering it resembles a thistle because of its toothed and prickly leaf margins. Stems, whitish in colour and with scattered prickles. When broken, the stems exude a yellowish milky sap. Leaves Up to 20cm long, silvery green with white veining and deep regular lobes. Upper surface of the leaf is smooth, while the underside has a few prickles along the midrib. The stem leaves (in contrast to the rosette leaves) are stalkless and clasp onto the plant's stem.



Flowers/Seed:

Flowers: 6cm across; 4 light yellow/cream petals; ovary in centre of flower and topped with a dark red 3 or 6 lobed stigma. Seed: Capsule oblong, prickly; to 3.5cm long, 3 openings at top; up to 400 seeds, oval shaped, blackish brown, to 1.5mm long with pitted coat and ridge along one side.

A. mexicana differs from *A. ochroleuca* in that it has bright yellow flowers (right).



Dispersal:

Seed dispersed close to parent plant often by wind and water.

District Location of Known Infestations and/or Additional Notes:

Not found within the district but has been identified in the Gascoyne District.