

Stinking mayweed, storksbill and thorn apple

- Stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*)**
- Summary** More common in the North Island. Annual.
- Identification** Fairly erect with branched and bushy leaves. Can grow 20-50 cm tall. Has flowers 2-3 cm in diameter, yellow in the centre with white petals. It has finely divided leaves that can be confused with scentless chamomile. However, chamomile does not have the strong smell of stinking mayweed when crushed.
- Characteristics** Can be a problem in spring pastures after winter treading damage. Can dominate pastures after time because stock tend not to eat it. Tainting of milk can occur when cows graze it.



- Storksbill (*Erodium cicutarium*)**
- Summary** Common on the East Coast. Annual to biennial.
- Identification** Forms a rosette 10-30 cm in diameter with a deep taproot. Has long narrow pointed fruits.
- Characteristics** Germinates in autumn and summer. In pasture, this weed provides reasonable feed in dry conditions but the fruits can penetrate the skin of sheep.



- Thorn apple (*Datura stramonium*)**
- Summary** Scattered throughout NZ. Annual.
- Identification** Has erect branching stems and very distinctive egg shaped seeds covered in prickles. Its foliage is dark green with green and purple stems. Produces large white flowers.
- Characteristics** A member of the nightshade family. Poisonous to livestock and humans.

