

# PUNCTUREVINE

*Tribulus terrestris*

Zygophyllaceae, the caltrop family

Category: Containment

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## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Puncturevine, commonly referred to as goathead, is an invasive plant that can form dense mats, competing with crops and native plants.
- It has a negative impact on crop production and can contaminate harvested produce such as dried fruit.
- The spiny burrs can injure livestock, pets, humans, and cause damage to recreational gear such as bike tires.

### Description

- Annual that can form dense mats up to 8 feet wide.
- Greenish-red, branched stems are covered with fine hairs.
- Leaves consists of 3-8 pairs of opposite, oblong-lanceolate leaflets, each being 5-15mm long and 3-5mm wide. The upper surface of leaflet is darker than the underside.
- Fruit are gray to yellowish-tan, circular, woody burrs that split into 5 sections, each with 2 stout, divergent spines.
- Small, yellow, 5-petalled flowers grow solitary in leaf axils.

### Introduction and Movement

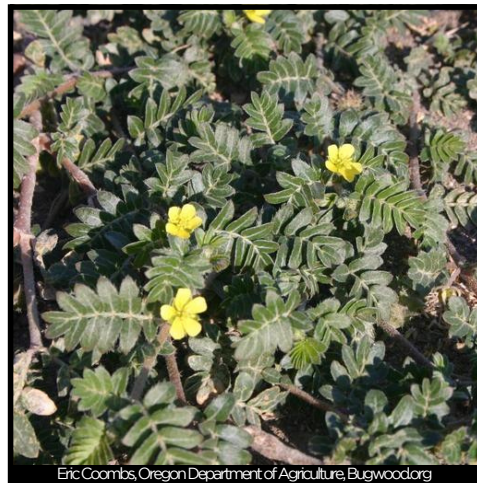
- Puncturevine is native to the Mediterranean region of southern Europe and was unintentionally introduced to North America by early European settlers via the burrs hitching a ride across the ocean in sheep wool.
- The plant can thrive in a wide range of soil types but prefers dry, loose, sandy soils often found in disturbed sites such as pastures, cultivated fields, roadsides, and ditches.
- It can easily spread by the spiny burrs latching on to clothing, shoes, tires, and animal fur.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Puncturevine and eradicate infestations on your property.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOCK IT OFF!**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/54447>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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## DISTRIBUTION MAP

