

Invasive Species of Truckee Meadows

Puncturevine

Tribulus terrestris



Identification

Puncturevine can be identified by its multiple stems that radiate from a single point. They can grow up to 3ft long and are often hairy. Flowers are yellow and have five petals. The puncture vine produces small, spiky fruit (often called "goatheads") that each contain 3-5 seeds.

Origin and Spread

Puncturevine was originally native to Europe and Asia and was brought to the United States accidentally in the 20th Century. It is believed that the plant may have stowed away on some sheep's wool that was being imported to the states from the Mediterranean region. It is now widely spread all over the United States and has earned its spot on the noxious weed list.

Just one of these plants can produce 200 to 5,000 seeds during one growing season!



Plant These Native Alternatives:



Torrey's desert dandelion
(*Malacothrix torreyi*)



Horsebrush
(*Tetradymia glabrata*)



Virginia strawberry
(*Fragaria virginiana*)



Hairy false goldenaster
(*Heterotheca villosa*)

Other alternatives:
Dwarf goldenbush
(*Ericameria nana*)
Giant blazing star
(*Mentzelia laevicaulis*)

For more information and resources, check out this link:



Management

Seeds may be viable in the soil for up to five years which can be a challenge when trying to control the spread of puncturevine. However, long term control may be achievable by reducing the spread of seeds. Hand pulling or hoeing the plant before seeds form is the recommended method to control Puncturevine.