

Tribulus terrestris

Puncturevine

Other common names: goathead, Mexican sandbur, tackweed, and caltrop



Zygophyllaceae, the caltrop family
Category: CONTAINMENT



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Prostrate summer annual that forms dense mats up to 8 feet wide
- Leaves opposite, even-pinnately compound, hairy, and have 4-8 leaflet pairs per leaf
- Flowers are bright yellow with 5 petals and borne solitary in leaf axils
- Fruits roughly circular with 10 spines; mature burs can injure people and animals and puncture bicycle tires

Background

- Native to the Mediterranean
- Inhabits sandy, dry, or gravelly sites
- Reproduces by seed

Photo Credit:

UGA1459483 - Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

UGA1459479 - Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

J.M. DiTomaso, The Regents of the University of California

Puncturevine

Tribulus terrestris

