



Puncturevine in late flower. (Jenny Meisel)

*****NOXIOUS WEED ALERT*****

Puncturevine

Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*) is one of the few invasive species that seems to cause problems for just about everybody. Hailing from southern Europe, you've likely had this ODA B-list weed in your bike tire or shoe-bottom at some point in your life.

Why is it a problem?

When it comes to nuisance weeds, few species can compete with puncturevine. In addition to popping bike tires and inflicting pain on bare feet, puncturevine foliage can be toxic to livestock. Sheep are particularly at risk.

Due to its method of seed dispersal, puncturevine often invades high-use and heavily disturbed areas. In turn, these infestations create another vector point and a regional invasion cascade can happen rather quickly with mature plants producing up to 5,000 seeds each! Dense mats of puncturevine can quickly render your favorite recreation site unusable, even if it keeps your local bike shop in business.

What Can You Do?

Thankfully, you've got options when it comes to fighting puncturevine. Manual control is very effective on smaller populations, however, be careful not to "dig" them up. Scalping the soil surface is more effective, as

deep digging/tilling can inadvertently plant/stimulate the seedbed.

Thick mulching can also stifle persistent infestations. Be sure to mulch at least 3" thick. Lastly, numerous options exist for chemical control at multiple stages of plant growth. A combination of pre/post emergent herbicides throughout the growing season can be especially effective. Please consult your local SWCD or OSU Extension office and always follow the label.

For more Best Management Practices, please check out these resources:

[University of California IPM](#)

[Columbia Gorge CWMA BMP](#)

The Western Invasives Network is asking for your help in identifying populations of puncturevine in Oregon.

How Do I Report Puncturevine?

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

-or-

Contact [your local CWMA](#)

**WESTERN INVASIVES
NETWORK**

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Puncturevine has inspired local groups to take action. These types of efforts are crucial to successful management and prevention. (Graphic by Kelly Knopp)



A nearly mature goathead lies in waiting. (Photo: Jenny Meisel)