

Deschutes County Noxious Weed Board

# Puncture Vine

## Identification and Control



Photo by  
Richard Old



# Identification



- Puncturevine is a summer annual growing flat along the ground.
- **Its leaves are divided into several tiny leaflets, and its flowers are small and bright yellow with five petals.**
- **The fruit is a woody burr with sharp, rigid spines** (strong enough to puncture bicycle tires or penetrate shoe soles).
- Found in pastures, roadsides, waste places, parks, agricultural areas.



# Control

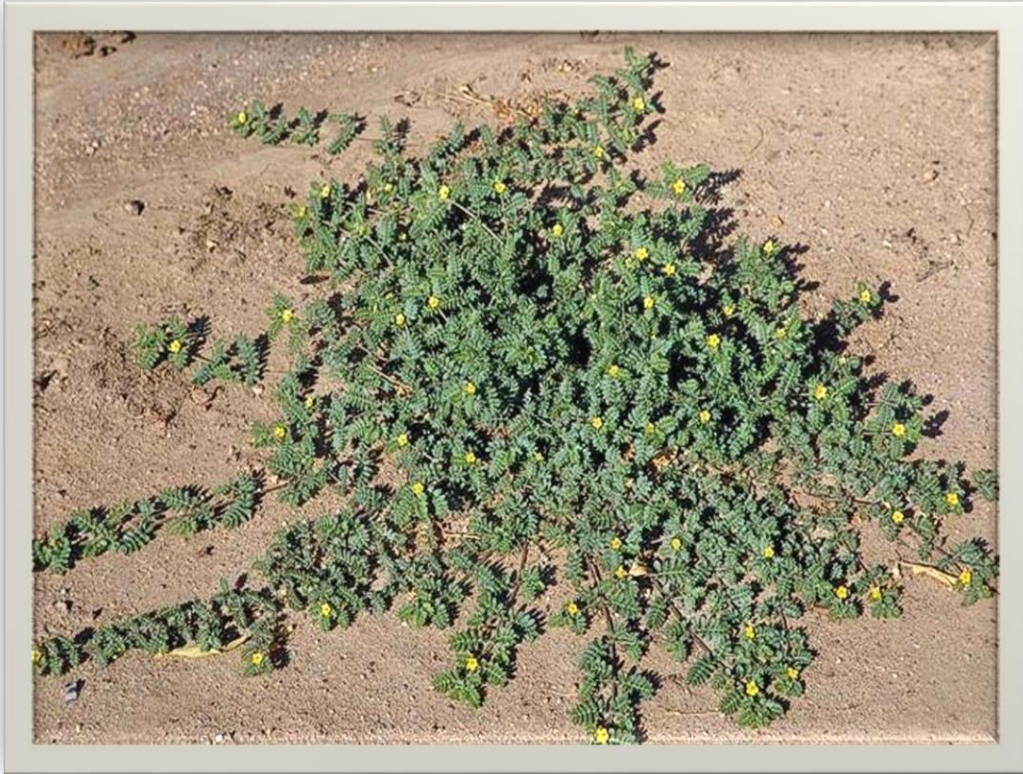


## General Control Strategy

- Puncturevine spreads by seed so **controlling plants prior to seed production is critical** to prevent further seed entering the seedbank.
- **When working in puncturevine infestations, make sure to clean shoes, clothing and tires to prevent spreading seeds to other areas.**
- After puncturevine control, plant areas with site appropriate plants to provide competition and reduce further puncturevine invasion.



# Control



- **Puncturevine can be hand-pulled or controlled by hoeing or digging up, ideally prior to seed formation in the spring.**
- **If plants have already produced seeds, make sure to remove all possible spiny burs from the ground.**
- **Shallow tilling, 1 inch or less, can also be used on small plants in the spring to control the plant prior to flower and seed development.** Tilling deeper in the soil may just bury that will survive longer.
- Neither mowing, grazing, or burning is recommended.



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# Thank you!

Let's keep our community free of noxious weeds.

For more information on noxious weed identification and treatment, please visit [www.deschutes.org/weeds](http://www.deschutes.org/weeds) or contact **Ed Keith, County Forester, at** [Ed.Keith@deschutes.org](mailto:Ed.Keith@deschutes.org) or: (541) 322-7117

