

Save Conejo Valley from Puncture Vine

Flowers & Leaves

Look for small yellow flowers, open in the morning, between April and October. Each leaf, comprised of 4 to 8 pairs of opposite leaflets, is 1/4 to 1/2 inch long and is covered with fine hairs.

Mature Plant

The mature puncturevine weed is a matlike plant up to 10 feet in diameter with stems radiating from the crown. There are 1/4 inch, 5-petaled, yellow flowers and multi-pointed sharp burs.



aka Goathead
Tribulus terrestris

With its sharp, thorny burs that pierce tires, paws, and shoes, PUNCTUREVINE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF BICYCLE FLAT TIRES. It is an annual weed typically found in sunny, dry areas. Usually flat, the stems can be nearly erect where growing in competition for light.

Migration

Puncturevine burs embed themselves in tires, shoes, feet, fur, and clothing to travel to new locations where the cycle begins again.

Seeds

The spiny seedpods often lie hidden under the plant. Mature seedpods break apart into 5 burs, each containing 2-4 seeds, which are viable for up to 7 years.

Removal Methods

Must Haves

Work Gloves
Garden Shears
Garbage Bags
Whisk Broom



Small infestations

Hoe or dig plants in the spring before they can set seed, cutting below the crown to prevent regrowth.



Mature, seed-bearing plants

Wear gloves. Gather the stems into a bunch, cut plant taproot just below the crown, bag and dispose of the cuttings and dried burs.

Be proactive

Crowd out the opportunistic weed by providing good competition from favorable plants where possible.

