

Puncturevine

Tribulus terrestris

Description

Introduced to North America from the Mediterranean in the wool of sheep imported around 1900. This species is listed under <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest/plant-health-certification-and-export/seed> Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation as a prohibited noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Habit

Forms dense mats close to the ground.

Leaves

Opposite, even-pinnate, 1.5-5 cm. long with 6-16 leaflets. Leaflets are oblong, 5-10 by 2-5 mm., slightly oblique base, entire margins and rounded tips.

Stems

Greenish-red in color, up to 2 m long with branches growing 20-60 cm. long. Can be smooth, finely hairy or covered with coarse firm





hairs. Generally prostrate but become erect in shade or in competition with other plants.

Flowers

Yellow in color, 5 petalled, 7-15 mm. in diameter and borne singly on a short stalks in the axils of the smaller of each pair of leaves. Open in the morning and close and shed their petals in the afternoon.

Fruits and Seeds

1 cm in diameter when mature and split into 4 or 5 segments containing 1-4 seeds each. Seeds are yellow, more or less oval and 2-5 mm. long.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Can be found in orchards, pastures, along roadsides, ditches, and almost any other type of dry, loose, sandy soils and dunes.

Reproduction

Reproduces only by seed.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Small infestations can effectively be controlled by hand pulling or digging before flowering and seed production. Herbicides are suited for medium-large infestations and in agricultural areas, infestations can be tilled before seed production.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Regional District



Midwest Invasive Species
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