

# Puncturevine

## *Tribulus terrestris*

### Description

Introduced to North America from the Mediterranean in the wool of sheep imported around 1900.

### 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**

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