

Plant: Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*) aka goathead

Identification: Puncturevine is a prostrate summer annual with branched reddish brown stems that form mats flat across the ground. The seed heads are hard, spiny burs that can cause injury to humans and animals. They reproduce by seed, usually by sticking in shoes, feet of animals, or tires of vehicles and equipment. The seeds can remain viable for up to 20 years. Plants can grow to over 6 feet across, with a slender taproot. They are often found in barren lands, roadsides, field and pastures edges, and along walkways. They especially thrive in compact dirt areas, where there is little competition.

Defense: Because it is an annual mechanical removal is extremely effective. It is best to use a shovel, and cut the root below the surface to remove the plant before it is mature enough to have seeds. There are many ways to control it with chemical as well. Pre-emergents are a great option in barren ground. Post emergent herbicides work well also. Dicamba (Vanquish), glyphosate (Round-up), and Chlorsulfuron (Telar XP) are great chemicals for this plant. Puncturevine is not overly competitive, so reseeding with perennial grasses will usually outcompete it.

**Always read and understand the pesticide label and restrictions on any pesticide you are using.
The label is the law.**

