

Where does it grow?

Puncturevine is often found on dry or gravelly sites, like roadsides, waste places and railroad yards. It also grows in agricultural areas such as orchards, vineyards, pastures and rangelands.

Though more commonly found in eastern Oregon, puncturevine grows on both the east and west sides of the state. It has only recently begun invading Hood River County. Now is the time to stop its spread!



Noxious Weeds in Oregon

“Noxious weed” means a plant that is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices.

Noxious weeds reduce crop yields, destroy native habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, lower land values, and poison or harm people and livestock.

Puncturevine is a Class B noxious weed in the state of Oregon.

Contact Us

If you have questions about puncturevine control and identification, or about other noxious weeds, we can help. Please contact us at:

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
3007 Experiment Station Rd.
Hood River, OR 97031
info@hoodriverswcd.org
541-386-4588

Or contact:

Hood River County Weed & Pest Dept.
918 18th Street
Hood River, OR 97031
541-387-7075



**Hood River Soil & Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

www.hoodriverswcd.org

*Information adapted from Lincoln County Noxious Weed
Control Board Brochure “Puncturevine: Options for Control”*



Stop the Spread: **Puncturevine**

a noxious weed in Oregon



Identification

Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*) is an annual native to Southern Europe that spreads along the ground forming mats of stems.

- Branching stems spread up to 6 feet wide.
- Leaves are opposite each other on stems and are divided into hairy leaflets, each about ¼ inch long.
- Small, yellow, 5-petaled flowers are borne on short stalks at leaf nodes.
- Its circular, spiny seed heads separate into 5 sections when ripe.



Growth & Spread

Puncturevine reproduces by seeds which germinate in late spring and early summer. Flowers may form within three weeks and continue forming for several months. Sharp-spined seed heads are produced through summer and fall and are dispersed by sticking into tires, shoes, clothing, fur, feathers and animal feet. Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for many years.

Why Invasive?

Puncturevine can quickly form large infestations in the right conditions. Its foliage is **toxic** to livestock, especially sheep. It is a serious weed in orchards, pastures, roadsides, waste places and cultivated fields. The hard, spiny seed heads are undesirable in hay and other crops. The spiny seed heads can injure the feet of animals and people, as well as damage property such as puncturing bicycle tires and inflatable boats, making it a problem in recreational areas.



Puncturevine Control

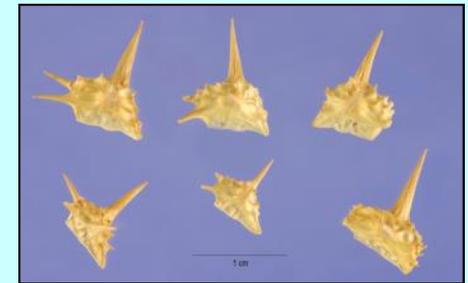
Puncturevine spreads by seed, so controlling plants prior to seed production will help limit the seed-bank. When working in puncturevine infestations, make sure to clean shoes, clothing and tires before leaving the area to prevent spreading seeds to other sites. **After puncturevine control, plant areas with site appropriate plants to provide competition and reduce further puncturevine invasion.**

Mechanical:

Puncturevine can be hand-pulled or controlled by hoeing, ideally prior to seed formation in the spring. If plants have already produced seeds, be sure to remove all seed heads from the ground. Wear gloves when removing puncturevine and be careful of the sharp spines. Shallow tilling can also be used in the spring to control the plant prior to flower and seed development. Mowing is ineffective due to the plant's low growth form.



Chemical: Appropriate herbicide use can provide effective control of puncturevine. After the plants have sprouted, postemergent products are effective. The smaller or younger the plant, the better the postemergent herbicides will work. When choosing a soil applied chemical for puncturevine control, consider whether a selective or non-selective product is needed. **Always read the label instructions before applying any herbicides** for proper rate and timing. Use chemicals that are compatible with your goals. Check with your local county noxious weed board for specific herbicide recommendations.



Biocontrol: Puncturevine seed weevil (*Microlarinus laerynii*) and puncturevine stem weevil (*Microlarinus bypriformis*) both attack puncturevine. Contact the ODA Noxious Weed Program at 503-986-4624 for more information.