



Puncturevine

Tribulus terrestris

- Annual, mat-forming with deep taproot
- Common names: Goathead
- Blooms throughout the summer
- Foliage can be toxic to livestock
- Tolerates very dry and poor soil conditions

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Suggested Control Methods for Puncturevine

Mechanical Control (Most Effective)

Hand-pulling/Hoeing: Pull or cut plants at the root crown *before* they produce seeds (spring/early summer).

Shallow Tilling: Effective in spring to disrupt seedlings, but deep tilling can bury seeds, making them last longer.

Seed Collection: If plants have seeds, sweep or vacuum them up to prevent spread; ensure they do not fall off during removal.

Cultural & Prevention

Revegetation: Plant competitive vegetation to crowd out seedlings.

Prevent Spread: Clean shoes, tires, and gear to avoid transporting seeds.

Avoid Grazing/Burning: Ineffective and potentially harmful; plants are toxic to livestock.

Chemical Control

Post-Emergent: Herbicides like 2,4-D, dicamba, or glyphosate work best on small, young plants.

Pre-Emergent: Soil-applied herbicides can stop seeds from germinating.

Biological Control

Seed Weevils: Specific weevils can be effective in areas where they establish, reducing seed production.