



Erodium cicutarium

Geraniaceae
Redstem filaree



ERC16

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

A dark green annual, winter annual, or biennial

stems

Many branched stems either erect, spreading, or prostrate with the tips ascending, 1/4 to 2 ft long, often covering areas 2 to 3 ft or more in diameter.

leaves

First form a rosette close to the ground, and are alternate, hairy, and 1/2 to 4 inches long. They are divided into 3 to 7 or more pairs of stalkless leaflets, which are further divided into many fine segments.

flower

In an umbrella-like cluster at the end of long slender stalks arising from the leaf axils. The 5 rose purple petals are 1/4 inch or less long, and drop off very quickly.

fruit

The unusual long needlelike fruits split into 5 one-seeded fruits at maturity. One seed is enclosed in each of these single, spindleshaped, very hard fruits.

They are 1/5 inch long, with a very sharp pointed base, and ends in a slender wiry beak 1 to 1 3/4 inches long. These “tails” are tightly twisted and corkscrew-like when dry, but uncoil when wet, and can drive the seed into the hardest soil.

seedling



nazflora.com



S. Matson



Casarroyo.org



S. Matson

flower color

Elevation:
100-8500 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Dunes, scrublands, desertlands, grasslands, riparian areas & woodlands.

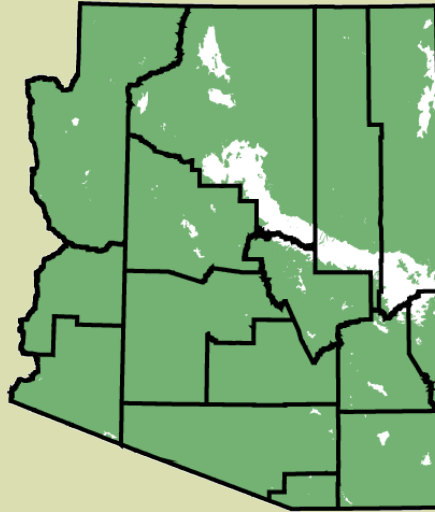
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

It is abundant throughout the state on plains, mesas, and slopes. It is common in moist soil and a nuisance, particularly in winter lawns, also in flower beds, yards, gardens, fields, and roadsides below 5,000 feet elevation from February to May.

Common in the same type of places from April to October at the higher elevations, about 5,000 to 7,500 feet; flowering February to July or to October at elevations to 8,500 feet or higher.

Because of its abundance and high forage value, redstem filaree is a very important plant on many Arizona ranges during a short period in the spring.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.



NOTE: A native species, *E. texanum* can be distinguished by having palmately lobed leaves as wide as long, and slightly larger flowers (petals >6mm) and fruits.

