

Evaluated but not
listed

impact risk level

Tribulus terrestris
Zygophyllaceae
Puncture vine



TRTE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- growth** Warm season, mat-forming annual weed with an extensive root system.
- flower** Yellow with five petals, borne singly in the leaf axils.
- stems** Mature plants grow prostrate on open ground but almost erect in dense vegetation.
- leaves** Finely divided into 4 to 8 pairs of leaflets (no terminal leaflet), and stems and leaves are covered with hairs.
- fruit** The fruit consists of a cluster of 5 spiny nutlets or burrs, each with two strong spines and 2 or more seeds; it breaks apart at maturity.



flower color

Elevation:
Unknown

Ecotypes Invaded:
Unknown

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

This plant is found throughout the United States, in gardens, along roadsides and in wasteplaces.

The seeds are easily transported by sticking into tires, shoes and animals' feet and fur. A nuisance urban plant due to the extremely sharp spines which easily puncture bicycle tires and stick into dogs feet.

This plant is easily removed having a simple taproot and will not resprout. The seeds will however persist in the soil for some time.



Left & Bottom Right: Sprawling plants

Bottom Left: Spiny fruit

