

**WRITTEN FINDINGS OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD**

Scientific Name: *Solanum rostratum* Dunal

Common Name: buffalobur, Kansas or Texas thistle

Family: Solanaceae

Legal Status: Class A

Description and Variation: A low yellow, spined, hairy annual. The stems mostly branching in the upper part, are erect and bushy, 1/2 to 2 feet long. The entire plant except the petals, is covered by straight yellow spines, 1/8 to 1/2 inch long. The leaves are alternate, 2 to 6 inches long including the stalks. Each leaf is irregularly cut into 5 to 7 lobes, and often these are 2-to 5-lobed. They are covered by short yellow starlike hairs, and the midribs, veins, and leaf stalks are spiny. The yellow flowers are 5-lobed, wheelshaped, 1 to 1 1/2 inches across, in few flowered clusters on spiny flower stalks. The calyx is covered by spines; it enlarges and forms a spiny bur, enclosing and completely covering the seedpod. The seeds are almost circular, 1/2 inch or slightly more in diameter, brown to reddish brown, flattened, irregularly angled, with a finely pitted surface. To identify buffalobur, look for the tomato-like yellow flowers and the unique, extremely prickly leaves, stems and fruits.

Economic Importance: Generally a "nuisance weed" of barnyards corrals etc. Burs may cause damage and considerable loss in wool value in sheep. Considered noxious on farms and rangelands.

Geographical Distribution: Buffalobur is native to the Midwest, where it is known to be highly aggressive and invasive. It is widely distributed in the Western U.S. and common on disturbed sites and sandy soils. Frequent repetitive introductions in Central and Eastern Washington, but has never established itself.

Habitat: Fields, overgrazed pastures, yards, roadsides, waste areas, barn yards, adapted to sandy soils, will also grow on dry hard soils to rich moist soils of cultivated fields.

History: Buffalobur is a native North American species, its range extending from central Mexico northward across the Great Plains of the United States. It is widely introduced elsewhere, including the U.S.S.R. and Australia. Repeatedly introduced into the Pacific Northwest, buffalobur usually appears in gardens, where it was planted with flower or vegetable seeds. Land managers found it near Penticton, British Columbia, following reseeding of rangeland. Occasionally, plants sold as tomato seedlings have matured into buffalobur. The name "buffalobur" dates back to the time of settlement of the Great Plains when the plant grew abundantly in the disturbed soil of buffalo wallows. Buffalo carried the burs great distances in their shaggy coats.

Growth and Development: Annual. The plants bloom in late June to early August and seeds mature July to October.

Reproduction: Seed alone

Response to Herbicides: 2,4-D plus Banvel: Buffalobur is moderately susceptible to 2,4-D when seedlings are immature. It becomes very resistant to 2,4-D after flowering. A combination of 2,4-D plus Banvel usually provides more complete control than either herbicide alone. Apply 2 quarts 2,4-D (3.8 pound acid equivalent per gallon) plus 1 pint Banvel per acre before plants bloom.

Response to Cultural Method: Prevent seed production by repeated, close mowing or by hoeing scattered plants before blossoms appear.

Biocontrol Potentials: None known.

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