



JVCWMA

People Working Together
Toward a Common Goal

JORDAN VALLEY COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
Organized to Prevent and Manage Noxious Weeds

Bur Buttercup

Bur buttercup (*Ranunculus testiculatus*) AKA hornseed buttercup, curvseed butterwort, and testiculate buttercup.

Life Span: Annual

Origin: Introduced from southeastern Europe.

Growth Characteristics:

Bur buttercup is a winter annual that emerges, flowers, and sets seed early in the spring, when temperatures reach the 45-50 degree range. Plants only grow to 2 to 5 inches tall. They often occur in dense mats which can cover large areas.

Flowers: Each blossom usually has 5 bright yellow petals. The flowers are very small, measuring less than a quarter inch long.

Fruits/Seeds: At maturity, each blossom develops into a bur, which dries and turns brown. 1/2 - 3/4 inch long.

Leaves: Divided into finger-like segments, resembling a bird's foot, and covered with fine hairs.

Stems: Short, leafless

Roots: Small taproot.

Soils: Widespread.

Ecological Adaptations: Bur buttercup has become widespread in gardens, small grains, pastures, waste areas, and along roadsides across the Western United States.

This plant contains ranunculin, which changes into a toxic compound, protoanemonin, when the plant is crushed. Sheep have been poisoned and died in the western United States after ingesting aboveground plant material. This plant is considered highly toxic. Signs of poisoning include anorexia, labored breathing, diarrhea, dyspnea, recumbency, weakness, and death.



Briefly: This nasty weed is one of the earliest germinating weeds in the area. It begins growing in early spring, preferring the high moisture levels and cool temperatures seen as early as February and into April or May. Bur buttercup is highly toxic to sheep, but it also affects humans. The sap can cause skin blistering on people who are susceptible.

Control

It is important to control bur buttercup stands before they produce flowers and seeds.

Cultural: Healthy desirable plant competition can out compete bur buttercup.

Mechanical: Hoeing, pulling, and digging can control bur buttercup.

Chemical Treatment: 2,4-D, dicamba + 2,4-D, Ally, Finale, Liberty, glyphosate products, metsulfuron methyl (MSM) products.

Always read and follow label directions on any chemicals.

It's the law!



Photos courtesy of
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