



# BUFFALOBUR

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Solanum rostratum*

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** Buffalobur is a native North American plant. The name 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. Buffalobur, a member of the potato family, is an annual that grows up to 2 feet tall. The stems are erect and bushy. The five to seven lobed leaves are covered by short yellow star-like hairs. The bright yellow flowers are five-lobed and wheel shape. The seedpod is encased in a spiny bur. The entire plant, except for the flower petals, is covered by straight yellow spines. To identify buffalobur, look for the tomato-like yellow flowers and unique, extremely prickly leaves, stems and fruits.



**WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW?** This spiny plant can be found in fields, overgrazed pastures, yards and gardens, roadsides and barn yards. It will grow on dry hard soils to rich moist soils.

**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** The bright yellow flowers start to appear in late June and the plant will continue to bloom through early August.



**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?** Buffalobur reproduces by seed only and the seeds mature from July to October. Once the plant has matured it breaks off at the stem which allows the plant to blow around like a tumbleweed, effectively spreading thousands of seeds.

**HOW DO I CONTROL IT?** See the reverse side for information on mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical control options for Buffalobur.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?** – Call:

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**  
10905 N. Ramsey Road  
Hayden, ID 83835  
208-446-1290

[kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us](mailto:kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us) or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.*

# How to Control Buffalobur

Buffalobur is an annual that reproduces by seed only, so control is by preventing seed production.

**Prevention** Buffalobur seeds are a common contaminant in bird seed and garden seed mixes. Buy only high quality seed, and watch in those areas to catch germinations early.

**Mechanical** Pulling/digging can be effective if the taproot is removed at least 2-3 below the soil surface. This will need to be repeated each year as new plants germinate until the seed bank in your soil is depleted.

**Cultural** The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Killing weeds is only one step, you have to also replace them with something good. Seed and fertilize so your grass can take nutrients away from the weeds and not leave available open soil for new weeds to germinate.

**Biological** Unfortunately there are currently no registered biological control agents available for Buffalobur.

**Chemical** *\*see additional information on Kootenai County chemical treatment handout\**

- The combination of active ingredients **2,4-D** and **Dicamba**, as found in products such as **Weedmaster** or **Brash**, or a tank mix of a 2,4-D product with a Dicamba product, can be effective against Buffalobur. These chemicals are broadleaf selective (safe on grass).
- The active ingredient **Clopyalid**, as found in herbicide products such as **Transline**, is labelled to suppress Buffalobur, but may not completely control it. This chemical is broadleaf selective (safe on grass) and also safe on most conifer trees.
- The active ingredient **Picloram**, as found in herbicide products such as **Tordon 22K**, is labelled to control Buffalobur. This is a federally restricted chemical and requires a license to buy or apply.

Chemical recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 *Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites*, the book *Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States* published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.