



*Solanum rostratum*

WA – Class C Noxious Weed, Prohibited Plant List

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

## Buffalobur

Kansas Thistle, Texas Thistle

**Family:** Solanaceae

**Origins:** Native to the Midwest region of the United States and Mexico, Buffalobur was brought to the west coast in contaminated seed. It is considered a nuisance in it's native range.

**Range:** Found in Mexico northward across the Great Plains. Infestations in Washington are more dense east of the Cascades.

**Habitat:** Commonly grows in fields, overgrazed pastures, yards, roadsides, waste areas, and barnyards. Buffalobur is drought tolerant and will grow in a wide range of soils.

**Impact:** Buffalobur is toxic to livestock and very aggressive in rangelands and pastures competing with native forage plants. The burs can entangle and create economic losses in wool and fiber shorn from sheep and goats. Buffalobur is also a host plant for the Colorado Potato Beetle. It reproduces by seed; each plant can produce up to 8,500 seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years.

Buffalobur seeds have been found in birdseed mixtures, flower seed mixtures, vegetable seed mixtures, and seed meal mixtures. Review the ingredients of seed mixes to avoid accidental introduction, and avoid using seed mixes with unidentified seed components.

**Description:** Buffalobur is a tap-rooted annual plant growing up to 3 feet tall. Yellow spines up to 0.5 inches long cover the entire plant, except for the petals. The stems are erect, bushy, and branching at the upper part. Alternate leaves are 2 to 6 inches long, irregularly cut into 5 to 7 lobes, and covered in short yellow starlike hairs. The midribs, veins, and stalks of leaves are also spiny. Yellow flowers are 1 to 1.5 inches across with 5 lobes, and grow in clusters of 3 to 15 flowers. Buffalobur blooms in late June to early August, and develops seeds from July to October inside spiny bur-like fruits.

**Common Look-Alikes:** Tomato, Carolina Horsenettle.

*\*Buffalobur is toxic to livestock.*



## Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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## Non-Herbicide Control

<b>Mechanical</b> (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Small infestations can be dug out; be sure to dig several inches below the soil line and bag all burs. Prevention of seed production is possible with repeated, close mowing or hoeing out plants before flower blossoms appear.
<b>Cultural</b>	Maintain healthy, competitive grasses in pastures by fertilizing, reseeding, and using proper pasture management techniques can help prevent Buffalobur infestations.
<b>Biological</b>	Biological agents are currently not available for Buffalobur in Washington State.

## Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

<b>Glyphosate</b> (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. <b>Remarks:</b> Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective, it may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
<b>Clopyralid</b> (Transline, Stinger)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. <b>Remarks:</b> Consult label for site registration; may injure or kill sensitive broadleaf forages; do not contaminate water.
<b>Picloram</b> (Tordon)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. <b>Remarks:</b> Repeat applications may be necessary; avoid drift to sensitive crops; refer to label for grazing restrictions; do not apply near water.
<b>Diflufenzopyr + Dicamba</b> (Overdrive)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants. <b>Remarks:</b> Do not plant any crop within 30 days of application; do not exceed 10 oz/a of Overdrive per season; for improved uptake, if weeds are under moisture or temperature stress, use a nonionic surfactant or a methylated seed oil; do not apply near water.

\* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), [nwcb.wa.gov](http://nwcb.wa.gov). Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.