

Deschutes County Noxious Weed Board

Bur Buttercup

Identification and Control



Photo: Toni Stephan, OSU Extension



Bur Buttercup – *Ranunculus testiculatus*



Photo: internet

- Other common names – little bur, testiculate buttercup, curvseed butterwort and tubercled crowfoot
- Late winter/early spring germination
- Shallow root system
- Dry seedheads stick to animal fur and get lodged in tires for easy dispersal
- Primary flowering period is March to May
- Neurological toxicity to livestock



Identification



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- Low growing, 2-4 inches tall
- Leaves form at the base and are deeply lobed, finger-like, rather succulent looking, 1 to 4 inches long.
- Yellow flowers form on leafless stalks, 2-5 petals per flower.
- Fine, webby hairs form on flower stalks and seedheads.
- Seedhead is a rounded or oblong bur changing from green to tan/brown when mature.

Resource: Weeds of California and other Western States
University of California ANR publication 3488, vol. 2



Control



Photo: Toni Stephan, OSU Extension

- Manual

- Pull or cultivate, severing plant from root before seedhead matures

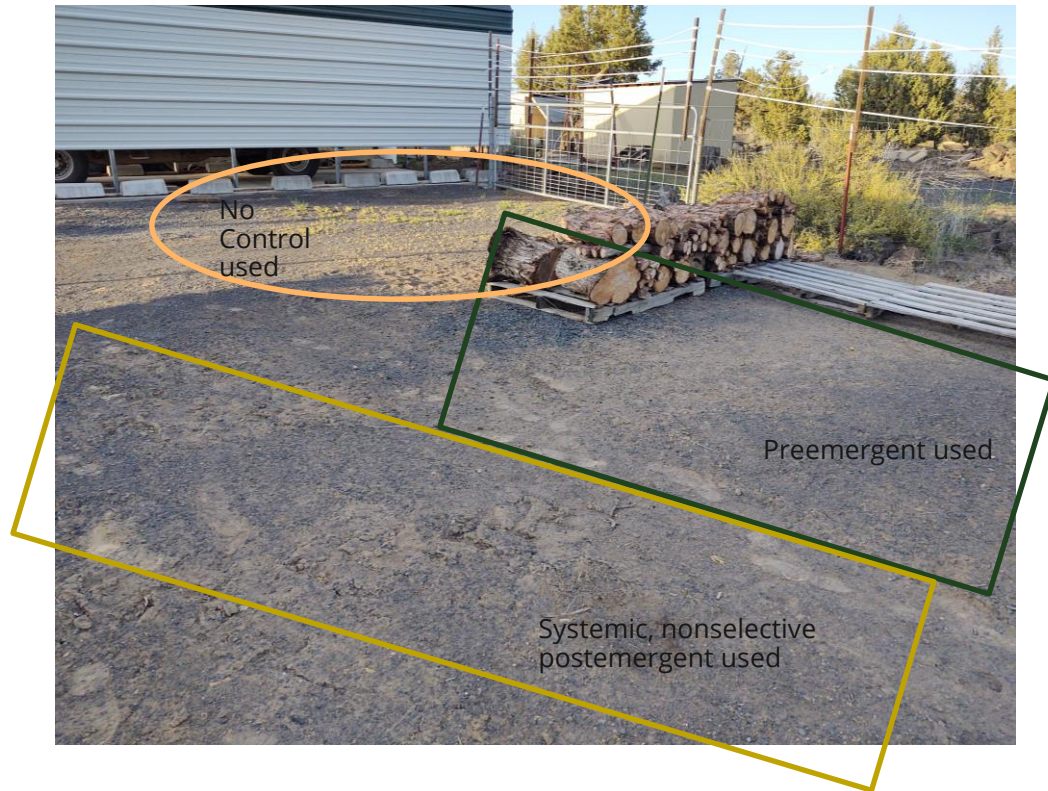
Cultural

- Cover bare ground with a 3-4 inch thick layer of mulch of some type
- Solarize area before using it for other purposes

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/soil-solarization/>



Control



- Chemical

- Broadleaf or nonselective preemergent herbicide in late fall.
- Nonselective or broadleaf postemergent herbicide before flowering.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment per product label.
- Follow label directions – The label is the law!

<http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed>



What not to do



- Walk or travel through infested areas as this is a good way to spread the seed.
- Allow animals to travel through areas
- Nothing, this allows the problem to continue and to get worse
- Allow plants to go to seed before managing them.



Thank you!

Let's keep our community free of noxious weeds.

For more information on noxious weed identification and treatment, please visit www.deschutes.org/weeds or contact **Ed Keith, County Forester, at Ed.Keith@deschutes.org** or: (541) 322-7117

