**Puncturevine**

*Tribulus terrestris* L.

**Family:** Zygophyllaceae

**Life cycle:** Annual

**Habitat:** Waste areas, roadsides.

**General description:** Relatively small, prostrate plant with compound leaves. Multiple stems develop from the crown, stems can reach lengths of 2-3 ft. Leaves are pinnately compound with 4 to 8 pairs of leaflets. Leaflets are $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2}$ in length, twice as long as wide, and hairy. Flowers have 5 yellow petals, each petal approximately $\frac{1}{4}$” long. Fruit consists of 5 sections, each with hard, sharp spines. Each section contains 2 to 4 seed.

**Key ID traits:** Compound leaves with hairy leaflets, mat forming growth habit.

**Similar species:** Growth habit is similar to prostrate spurge and prostrate knotweed. However, the hairy leaflets and compound leaf are key distinguishing features.

**Miscellaneous:** Puncturevine is more common in the western part of the state, but is found occasionally throughout. The burs are notorious for causing flat tires on bikes when the plant grows along the edges of roads.

![Compound leaves and flower](image1)

![Five part fruit with sharp-spined burs.](image2)

![Puncturevine prostrate growth habit.](image3)