

# "B" Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,  
but may have limited distribution in some counties

**Buffalobur**  
*Solanum rostratum*

**Other common names:** Kansas thistle, Texas  
thistles, Colorado bur

**USDA symbol:** SORO  
**ODA rating:** B



**Introduction:** Buffalobur is a native North American species in the potato family that's range extends from central Mexico northward across the Great Plains. The name "buffalobur" dates back to the settlement of the Great Plains when the plant grew abundantly in the disturbed soil of buffalo wallows. It is thought buffalo carried the burs great distances in their shaggy coats. It occasionally appears near wild bird feeders or near dairy operations where seed meals are part of the cows diet.

**Distribution in Oregon:** Buffalobur has limited and often transitory locations in 15 Oregon counties.

**Description:** Buffalobur is a warm season annual growing two to three feet high. The stems, leaves, and even flowers sport an array of sharp spines. The leaves are deeply lobed growing up to 5 inches long. Yellow flowers emerge midsummer to September, are one inch in diameter and are formed by five fused petals. When mature the seedpod is a spine-covered dry berry covered contains numerous black, wrinkled and flattened seeds.

**Impacts:** Buffalobur is a highly drought tolerant native of the Great Plains. It is typically found in a variety of disturbed often very dry sites though it is not very competitive. It can grow in a wide variety of irrigated crops and serves as a host for the Colorado potato beetle. The burs can entangle and create economic losses in wool and fiber shorn from sheep and goats.

**Biological controls:** No approved biological control agents are available.

