War on Weeds — Weeds are Everybody's Problem

THE ISSUE: Syrian beancaper

Syrian beancaper (*Zygophyllum fabago*) is a deeprooted herbaceous perennial native to the Mediterranean area. It invades disturbed areas, roadways, grasslands, and other sites. It can form dense monocultures that outcompete native species. Its presence reduces forage quality because it is unpalatable to livestock.

Syrian beancaper can grow up to 3 feet in height and width. Branched stems extend from a woody crown. Leaves are leathery, thick, hairless, and are composed of two ovel shaped leaflets, giving them a y-shape. Flowers are small and compact, with each having five petals. They are white, cream, yellow or copper colored with pinkish veins. Seed pods are oblong, ribbed, have five compartments, and are 1½ inches long. Each seed pod compartment contains several seeds. Syrian beancaper reproduces from seed and

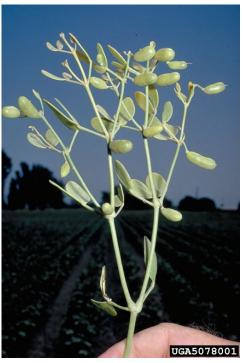


Photo courtesy of California Department of Food and Agriculture, CDFA, Bugwood.org

vegetatively from rhizomes. Seed is dispersed by wind, water, animals and humans. Control of this weed can be very difficult.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Options:

- Prevention Learn to identify this plant. Never transport unknown plant material.
 Always plant clean seed!
- Mechanical Hand digging or pulling can be effective on small infestations. Remove as much of the roots as possible. Tillage is not recommended because it can reproduce from rhizomes, allowing it to spread.
- Cultural Establish a healthy stand of beneficial plants that will compete for essential resources.
- Chemical Glyphosate and Metsulfuron are two herbicide active ingredients that
 may control this weed. Refer to https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed then search
 "beancaper." Always read and follow herbicide label directions!

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