

# *Tribulus cistoides*

## BURRNUT

### Zygophyllaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

**FLEPPC Category:** -

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

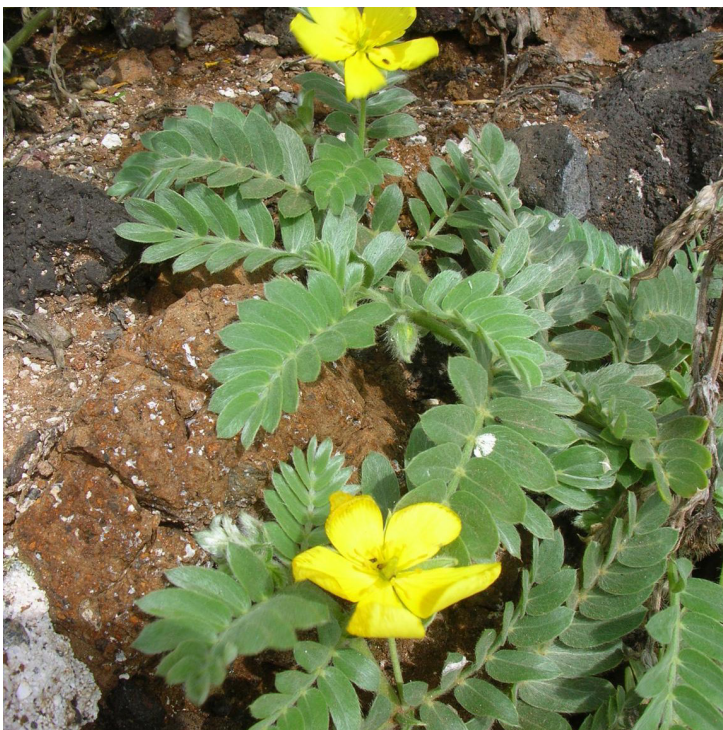
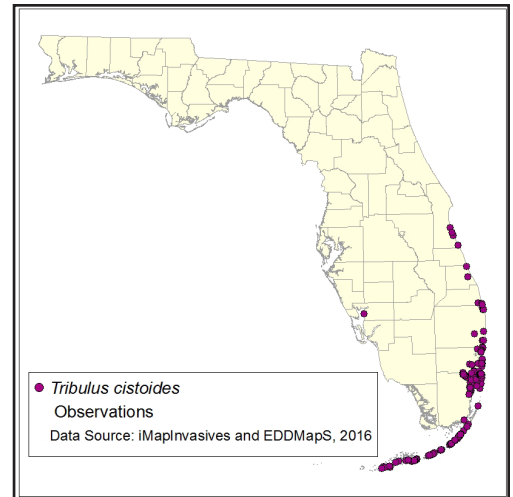
**IFAS Assessment**

North	CAUTION
Central	CAUTION
South	CAUTION

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 9a-11

**Growth Habit:** Perennial herb

**Origin:** East Africa, Madagascar, Mascarene Islands



Forest and Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org

**Description:** Perennial (sometimes annual) herb, with many-branched trailing stems to 1 m long or longer. Tap root woody, stems often slightly woody at base, tips erect, younger stems covered with silky hairs. Leaves opposite, to 10 cm long, even-pinnate. Leaflets in 5-8 pairs, elliptic or oblong, to 2.8 cm long and 1.2 cm wide, covered with silky hairs, margins entire, bases rounded, tips bluntly pointed. Terminal leaflet pair spine tipped. Stipules linear, to 0.7 cm long. Flowers showy, solitary in leaf axils, on long, hairy stalks 2 to 3 cm long, sepals 5, lance shaped, petals 5, bright yellow, rounded, to 2.5 cm long. Fruit a hard spiny capsule, burr-like, to 1.5 cm across, splitting into 4 or 5 segments, each of which has two sharp spines to 8 mm long and contains one or more seeds.

**Habitat:** dunes and coastal strands; sandy openings of ruderal areas and pinelands

**Comments:** Spiny nutlets are animal and human dispersed.

**Florida Introduction Date:** Mid 1940s

**Control Methods:**

Mechanical: Manual pulling. Mowing is not effective due to the prostrate growth habit.

Chemical: Glyphosate and dicamba have been used with excellent results. 2,4-D also shows good results. A 1-2% solution of each of these with surfactant is recommended (IFAS).

**Useful Resources:**

Dave's Garden. 2014. PlantFiles: Burrnut, *Tribulus cistoides*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/103210/>. Accessed on June 23, 2014.

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.