Tribulus cistoides  
BURRNUT  
Zygophyllaceae  

Common Synonyms: none

FLEPPC Category: -  
FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No  
IFAS Assessment

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USDA Hardiness Zone: 9a-11  
Growth Habit: Perennial herb  
Origin: East Africa, Madagascar, Mascarene Islands

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

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) or foliar with 5% triclopyr ester.

Useful Resources:

Comments: Spiny nutlets are animal and human dispersed.