

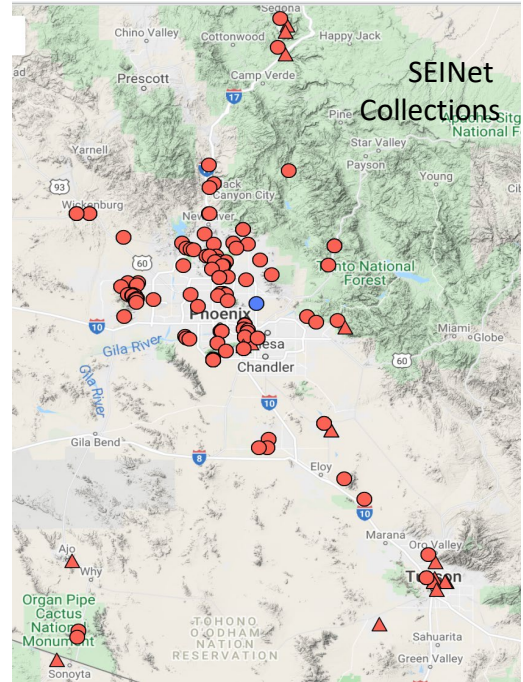
New Invasive Species in Gila County

stink net or globe chamomile (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*)



Occurrence

Stinknet is native to South Africa, introduced to California and Arizona. It is more common in the Phoenix-metro area; however, recently the population has been documented across Arizona. Stinknet is found predominately in ag fields disturbed areas, river bottoms, and roadsides. Elevation range was thought to be between 1,000 and 3,000 ft, but in 2020 it was documented at 4,200ft near Sedona. Ecologists are concerned that there are no limits to



the elevation stinknet can occur. It has become an invasive species that is quickly moving across Arizona and poses a problem because it can outcompete native annual vegetation, especially annual wildflowers.

Characteristics

Stinknet is an annual cool season annual forb that begins to grow in October to November and goes to seed in March or April. Stinknet flowers are yellow globes up to 1 inch wide. The leaves are 7-13 inches long, alternating on the stem and deeply lobed like a carrot leaf. When crushed the foliage has a strong odor, which some say smells like turpentine. Each yellow globe contains up to 100-200 flowers, all producing viable seed. In Arizona, stinknet is the only member of the Aster family (Asteraceae) with a globe-like flower, making it easy to identify. The large amount of seeds



The large amount of seeds

produced gives stinknet the ability to spread effectively in areas where it is introduced. During dry years, its seeds can remain dormant in the soil until conditions improve. Stinknet seeds are less than 0.5 millimeter long, and are easily spread through wind, animals, vehicles, and water.



Concerns

Stinknet dries out in Arizona during early summer, which is also the start of the wildfire season.

Stinknet has been described as a potential low fire fuel. Some research shows it can spread fire as an initial ignition source and carry a fire to areas of higher density, such as areas that are have more shrubs or trees. Stinknet is considered a “flash fuel” meaning it is easy to ignite.

What Can You Do?

The most important goal is to prevent plants from going to seed. Once plants mature seed, they are prone to dropping the seed during any movement. Stinknet has a long flowering stage and the seeds are not mature until all flowers have bloomed. Plants that have gone to seed should not be sprayed with herbicide. Plants that have gone to seed are dead or will be soon because they are annual will not be affect by herbicide. Consider wearing gloves if pulling stinknet because it can cause an allergic reaction.



Help Stop the Spread of Stinknet and Other Invasive Species

Invasive species typically spread along roadways, fields, or residential areas. If traveling to/from a new area consider cleaning your hiking boots and tires (vehicle, RV, 5th wheel, UTV/ATV) to remove any invasive seeds. Consider purchasing certified weed free hay for your animals. When possible, help educate others about the threat and spread of invasive species.



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