

STOP THE STINK!



FACT SHEET

Stinknet is a winter annual → The growth period is December (or after winter rains begin) through May; the plant dies after it forms seeds. With shallow roots, it is easy to pull. Stinknet seeds (more than 200/flower!) easily shatter from dried flowers. The tiny seeds can live in the landscape for years, surviving periods of drought.

Stinknet is spread by vehicles, people, wind, and water → The seeds cling to tires, shoes, paws, clothing; it deposits in vehicle cavities (e.g., wheels, grills); look for it along roadways, trails, washes, agricultural areas. Don't drive over or walk in stinknet!

Stinknet isn't eaten by herbivores and has few pollinators → The plant grows rapidly, takes up space and depletes the available water and nutrients, but it isn't used by wildlife. Left unchecked, it aggressively overwhelms and chokes out native plants.

Stinknet is very flammable → It has been designated a ladder fuel. It grows in open spaces, and along roads. It spreads fire rapidly to patches of large vegetation. Paloverdes, saguaros, yuccas, and other native plants are not fire tolerant and die, reducing the wildlife value of the landscape. In subsequent years, stinknet will flourish.

Stinknet is harmful to health → Most people don't react to stinknet. But, the leaf glands exude volatile oil that can cause rashes, headaches, asthma, and other respiratory problems in some people and children may be more vulnerable. Wear gloves to pull it or invert a bag over the plant to avoid touching its leaves.

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IF YOU SEE STINKNET:

Take a photo → A cell phone image of the plant will permit accurate identification. Better yet, use a “GPS camera” app that will embed the lat/long coordinates and location data in the photo even if there is no cell signal. Free and pro versions are available for androids and iPhone. The GPS location assures that the plant can be found again.

Remove the plant(s) → If possible, pull up the entire plant, place in a plastic bag, tie it closed, and deposit in trash. Don't worry If roots remain, they won't regenerate. If manageable, remove all the stinknet. If the stand is too large, a second photo showing the extent is helpful. *Wear gloves* or avoid the leaves by placing the bag over the entire plant and grasping its base to pull it up. This is the method to avoid shedding seeds if the flowers have dried to tan color.

Estimate the number of plants → Choose from 4 categories: Single, Scattered Plants (2-25), Dense Patch (26-250), or Scattered Dense Patches (more than 250).

Report it! → Reporting the plant will alert public land managers that stinknet has colonized a location that may be new to them. You can also note if you took an action, e.g., pulling and bagging the plant. After a report, teams may go out to scout the area and make sure that all plants have been removed. Your report will also go on a map.

DON'T SPREAD THE SEEDS → The tiny seeds cling electrostatically to shoes, clothing, paws, and tires. Use a brush or rag to clean before you enter your vehicle. Don't take seeds home!