

NEWSLETTER

PERSISTENCE IS KEY

Puncturevine is an annual plant found throughout Goshen county and is commonly known as "goat heads." While persistent in mid to late summer, it can be controlled.



Why does it never end? One plant can produce 200-5,000 seeds in a growing season and can lay dormant in the soil for years. This means control measures may need to be repeated more than once per year and over multiple years.

How does it spread? Sharp seed burs allow for easy dispersal by adhering to tires, shoes, and animals.

Prevention: Prevent the spread of puncturevine by checking shoes, tools, pets, and tires for burs and removing them before travelling to uninfested areas. Dispose of seeds properly, preferably by burning.

Treatment: Control emerged plants with a broadleaf herbicide (i.e. 2,4-D amine, dicamba) or a non-selective herbicide (i.e. glyphosate) to treat all vegetation. Multiple treatments will likely be necessary as new plants may emerge after only 1/8" precipitation or irrigation.

**WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?**

"They are everywhere this year!"

This has been a common phrase when talking to Goshen county residents about pesky miller moths. Dry conditions since last fall combined with the mid-April freeze caused a reduction in late spring and early summer blooming flowers. Consequently, miller moths sought irrigated landscapes such as yards and gardens in search of plant nectar. To avoid sunlight, miller moths will hide in dark, tight spaces such as doorways and windows. At night, they emerge to resume feeding and migration.

Good news! They will be gone soon. Miller moths migrate to the mountains each summer as the lower temperatures are less stressful and there is a more reliable source of nectar from summer wildflowers.

Did you know? Fat is incredibly important to a bear's diet and miller moths contain about a half calorie of fat content. Digging under rocks and timber, bears eat up to 40,000 moths per day meaning a grizzly bear can consume 20,000 calories of miller moths!

Learn more here:

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/insect/millermoths.pdf>

ANOTHER POKEY SEED!

Field sandbur is a summer annual grass found in lawns, fields, and roadsides. Known for its spiky seed, sandbur can be easily dispersed as needle-like barbs stick to tires, shoes, wildlife, and livestock. Typically it is not noticed in a lawn until it flowers (produces seed) in late summer. Controlling sandburs can be difficult because it appears similar to other grasses until burs develop.

Treatment involves prevention of infestation and maintaining a properly fertilized, mowed, and irrigated lawn. Digging individual plants is effective for small infestations. Pre-emergent herbicides can be utilized in early spring. A non-selective herbicide can be applied where no vegetation is desired.

More about pre-emergent herbicides in our May Newsletter: <http://www.goshenweedandpest.com/newsletter.html>

**STAY IN THE KNOW**

- Mosquito foggers are available for rent
- Visit with us during 3rd Thursday and Fair Day
- Calibration guides available on our website
- Budget meeting on July 9 at 10:30am