

Scientific name: *Solanum rostratum*

Common name(s): Buffalo Bur, Buffalobur/Spiny Nightshade

Family: Solanaceae (Nightshade)

Native: CO?, Southwest, northern Mexico

Habitat: Fields, pastures, roadsides, disturbed sites



Photo: T. Beth Kinsey
fireflyforest.net

Buffalo Bur is both **highly toxic** to people and to livestock if ingested, and its **spines** pose a **hazard** to small children and pets. It is a listed noxious weed in some states; in Colorado its origins are murky: it could be native or could have migrated north from Mexico on the coats of horses or cattle in the 19th Century. It is an ancestral host plant of the Colorado Potato Beetle (which adapted to potato plants when they were introduced by settlers), and its seeds provide quality forage for doves and other ground feeding birds. Do **NOT** plant Buffalo Bur if you are adjacent to agricultural or pasture lands, have grazing animals, pets or small children. If growing it in an urban or suburban garden, consider managing the seeds: collect the seeds to feed birds and to minimize potential dispersal into open spaces and natural areas.

Plant type: Annual (reseeds profusely)

Elevation: to 8500'

USDA Hardiness Zone: N/A

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Poor, disturbed, degraded

Moisture: Moderate, low, dry, xeric

Flower color: Bright yellow

Bloom time: Late spring to late summer

Mature size (height x width): 1-4' x2-5'



Photo: Mark Hines
Hines and Annals of Southeast Colorado



Propagation: Sow Buffalo Bur seeds in the fall; seeds require exposure to cold temperatures (winter dormancy) before they will germinate.

