

Spiny Burr Grass



DESCRIPTION – A summer-growing grass species that can reach 60 cm in height, though plants are usually much shorter and can form large clumps. Up to 30 burrs per spike can be produced yielding 1000 seeds per plant. One to four seeds form in each burr with an average of three being produced. The first seed formed (primary seed) is the largest and can germinate within a few months. The other seeds (secondary seeds) can remain dormant for periods exceeding three years. The major spread of this weed is by seed. The burrs easily detach from plants and adhere to wool, fur, clothing, tyres and similar materials.

Photo's courtesy CCC & K.Bunn



Spiny Burr Grass is a summer-growing, mainly annual grass found on lightly sandy soils throughout the drier areas of Australia, often on disturbed soils.

WHY IS IT A WEED – It has the ability to spread rapidly. Burrs of mature plants cause health problems in livestock and are troublesome to dogs and humans. The burrs can injure stock by penetrating feet and mouths causing swelling and ulcers. They cling to wool and penetrate the skins of animals, reducing the value of both.