



## Caltrop

*(Tribulus terrestris)*

- **Origin** – Mediterranean
- **Growth Habit** – Annual herb. Long trailing stems growing from one central taproot
- **Fruit** - Long sharp spines or burrs in clusters of five
- **Habitat** – Bare disturbed soil
- **Flowers** – Yellow 1cm in diameter

### Plant Description

Caltrop is a problematic pest plant both environmentally and in the home garden. This annual herb produces fruit with long sharp spines that are very painful if stepped on.

### Impacts

Caltrop may germinate at any time of the year following sufficient rainfall. Plants can reproduce continuously from spring to autumn and will readily infest bare disturbed soil. Fruit can cling to footwear, clothing, car tyres, bike tyres and animals. This assists the effective spread of seeds across large distances. If left untreated, large infestations can out-compete other ground cover plants including turf.

### City of Rockingham Local Law 2000

Caltrop is listed as a Pest Plant under City of Rockingham Pest Plants Local Law 2000. Under this law, City of Rockingham may serve on the owner or occupier of private land notice requiring the destruction, eradication or otherwise control of any pest plant on that land.

### Control Method

Remove smaller plants by hand. Remove the entire plant including all roots, pulling plants from the root crown. Wear gloves to avoid sharp spines. Place plants in rubbish bags and tie securely for disposal. Spray seedlings with a 1% glyphosate solution. Alternatively, diesel can be effective in killing plants and sub-surface seeds.

### Further Information

- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Agriculture and Food, <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pest-plants/caltrop-what-you-should-know>
- HerbiGuide, [http://www.herbiguide.com.au/Descriptions/hg\\_Caltrop.htm](http://www.herbiguide.com.au/Descriptions/hg_Caltrop.htm)
- FloraBase, <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/4383>

