

Bur Buttercup

**GROW & GIVE
WEEDS**

Ceratocephala testiculata (syn. *Ranunculus testiculatus*)

Bur buttercup is an introduced species in Colorado. It often grows in dense patches along disturbed soils, dryland pastures, and fields, particularly when the environment is arid or semi-arid. Bur buttercup is a winter annual, meaning that it reproduces by seed which germinates in late winter/early spring. Plants typically grow 1-4" tall and wide, with finely divided leaves that are softly hairy.

Flowers are yellow and bloom in spring/summer. Seed pods are prickly, which causes this plant to be commonly confused with goat heads (*Tribulus terrestris*).



Flowering and Fruiting Bur Buttercup.

Photo: Max Licher, Consortium of Intermountain Herbaria.



Bur Buttercup Seedlings in Early April.

Photo: Yvette Henson, CSU Extension.

To manage bur buttercup, it's best to remove the plant before it sets seed.

This can be done by hoeing, hand pulling, digging, or burning. Check with your municipality or HOA to see if burning is allowed. If necessary, bur buttercup can also be sprayed with 2,4-D, Ally, Banvel + 2,4-D, Finale, Liberty, or Roundup.

For more information on Growing and Giving, go to growandgivecolorado.org