

# What to do if you find African rue...

- Report suspect sites to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately!
- Document locations using landmarks or GPS coordinates. This information is essential to confirm sites.
- Prevent spread in hay or by cleaning equipment, livestock and vehicles.

## Don't let African rue get a foothold in Oregon!

**Report suspect  
sites to**

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Noxious Weed Control Program  
503-986-4621  
or call

**1-866-INVADER**



**Oregon Department  
of Agriculture**  
Plant Division  
Noxious Weed Control Program  
635 Capitol St. NE  
Salem OR 97301-2332



**African rue**

***Peganum harmala*  
INVADER ALERT!**



## What is African rue?

African rue is native to the deserts of Africa and South Asia. It was introduced to the western United States in the 1920s and has become a hard to control noxious weed. African rue is naturalized in New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, California, and Washington. In Oregon, infestations occur in Crook and Harney counties. Before 2008, the Crook County site was the only confirmed infestation.



## What does African rue do?

African rue contains poisonous alkaloids that are harmful to people and animals; seeds and fruit are the most toxic. This plant possesses allelopathic chemicals that act as natural herbicides retarding the growth of surrounding plants and giving it a competitive edge. African rue's robust growth crowds out desirable plants, altering rangeland, pasture, and native habitats.

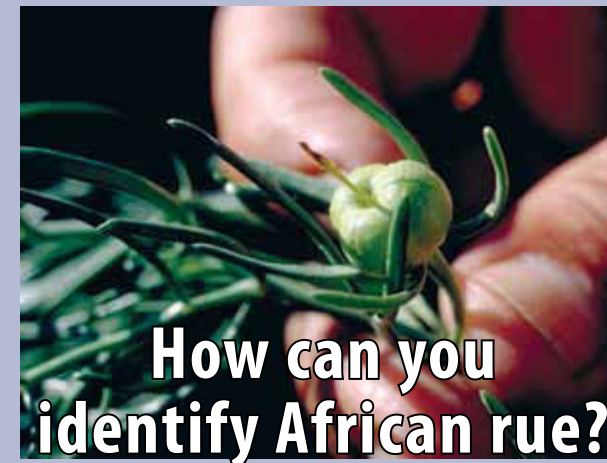


## How does African rue spread?

African rue prefers disturbed habitats in semi-arid to desert environments and is often found on high salinity soils. Most reproduction is from seed; root fragments are a source under certain conditions. Burning, tilling, and other disturbance can quickly expand infested sites. Contaminated hay, equipment, and livestock are sources to spread African rue.



- Widely distributed
- Limited distribution
- Not known to occur



## How can you identify African rue?

African rue, a member of the caltrop family, is a perennial, multi-stemmed, succulent shrub that grows from 1 to 3 feet tall from a woody base. It has bright green alternate leaves that are smooth and deeply divided into long narrow segments. Flowers are white with five petals. Fruits are fleshy, many-seeded capsules. When crushed, the stems have a disagreeable odor and bitter taste. The foliage turns bright orange with fall frost.

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT>  
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Photographs: P. Rice, University of Montana;  
B. Legler, University of Washington Herbarium;  
and Bonnie Rasmussen, ODA  
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Contact 503-986-4621 for more information.

