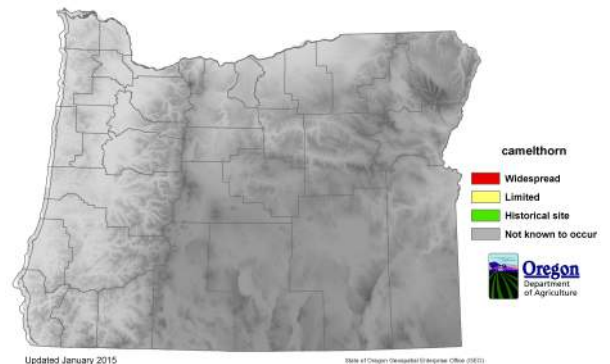


Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Camelthorn
Alhagi pseudalhagi

Other common names: Caspian manna

USDA symbol: ALMA12
ODA rating: A



Introduction: Camelthorn is a native of the Turanian Desert and the Iranian Plateau. The common name is derived from the high affinity that camels have for eating the plant in its native range. It was introduced to the United States in 1915 in shipments of alfalfa seed from Turkestan and in camel dung packing around date palm offshoots.

Distribution in Oregon: Not currently known to exist in Oregon.

Description: Camelthorn is a perennial and flowers from June to July. It grows from 1½ to 4 feet tall. Stems are greenish with slender spines ¼ to 1¾ inch long. Leaves are wedge-shaped, hairless on the upper surface, and ¼ to 1¼ inch long. Flowers are small, pea-like, pinkish purple to maroon, and occur on short, spine-tipped branches along the upper portion of the plant. Reddish-brown jointed seed pods are curved upward and deeply indented with each seed clearly outlined in the pod.

Impacts: This weed grows well on dry or moist sites and is reported to spread rapidly along streams and canals. Camelthorn is strongly competitive with other plants. Rapid and aggressive growth allows it to out compete both native plants and cultivated crops. A creeping root system and spiny stems result in impenetrable stands unpalatable to most wildlife and livestock. Camelthorn is a potential contaminant of alfalfa seed and is especially troublesome in cereal croplands where repeated cultivation aids spread.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available for this weed.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-986-4621
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Dan Sharratt,
ODA