

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Spikeweed
Hemizonia pungens

Other common names: common tarweed and
maritime spikeweed

USDA symbol: HEPU5
ODA rating: B



Distribution in Oregon: Spikeweed primarily infests dryer, hotter eastern Oregon counties.

Introduction: Spikeweed is native to California. It was introduced to the Columbia River basin of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington within the last century and behaves as an invasive weed and agricultural pest. It is reported more frequently in central and eastern Oregon, occurring on roadsides, waste areas and in low alkaline sites of grain fields and rangelands.

Description: Spikeweed is an annual that blooms July to September. This plant grows 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall and has basal leaves that are pale, straw colored, stiff and several inches long with narrow lobes. Stem leaves 1/2 inch long or less and sharp pointed, bearing dwarf stems in their axils. Flower heads yellow, 1/3 inch broad and borne at the tips of short leafy branches. It is a truly armored-looking plant.

Impacts: Occurs on roadsides, waste areas and in low alkaline sites of grain fields and rangelands. It competes for moisture and nutrients with agricultural crops. Spikeweed is a tough, spiny plant generally avoided by livestock. It is a heavy seed producer and forms dense stands on areas favorable to its growth.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available.

