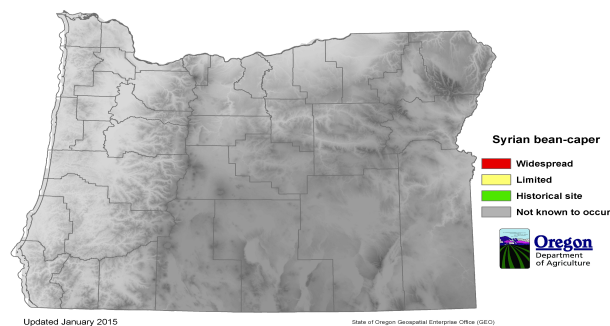


# Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

**Syrian bean-caper**  
*Zygophyllum fabago*

**Other common names:** Bean caper

**USDA symbol:** ZYFA  
**ODA rating:** A



**Introduction:** Bean caper is a highly drought resistant deep-rooted perennial. It often grows in areas where soils or rocky or sandy and with limited competition. Its seeds may contaminate alfalfa seeds as they are similar in size and density and difficult to remove.

**Distribution in Oregon:** This species is not yet known to occur in Oregon.

**Impacts:** Syrian bean-caper is well suited to dry environments. Buds and branches form on spreading roots, forming dense patches that compete for water and space. Large infestations can reduce forage potential in dryer areas of the west. It grows in masses, forming colonies, especially in dry, gravelly, disturbed areas where other plant life is rare. Hand removal is often unsuccessful due to remaining root fragments that can generate new plants.

**Description:** Syrian bean-caper is native to the Middle East and central Asia. A bushy herbaceous perennial that may act like an annual in regions with harsh winters. It flowers from May to August and grows up to 1½ feet tall. Leaves somewhat succulent, opposite, compound and each having 2 ovals, 1 inch leaflets. Stems smooth and branched from a thickened woody crown. Flowers are small; compact bunches of five petals each with prominent stamens, salmon to yellow or white with pinkish veins and up to ¾ inch. Flower buds have been used as a substitute for capers. It reproduces by seed and vegetatively from lateral creeping roots.

**Biological controls:** Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. If this weed is found in the state it will be managed for eradication or containment.

