

**The ENEMY:** Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*)

**Strategy:** A short growing annual plant in the nightshade family (potato's and tomato's) that has spines on the stems and seed heads. The banana shaped, yellow flowers develop a round seed pod that houses many seeds. It grows to a height of 2 feet. This plant is found in Eastern Oregon as it was brought to us by contaminated "wild bird" seed. The leaves from this plant are extremely lobed (like tomatoes – as they are in the same family) and have prominent yellow veins.

**Attack:** This plant has been known to be a host for the Colorado Potato beetle that eats up our commercially grown potatoes. It is also a very miserable plant to have around as the spines are very unforgiving and can keep wildlife, livestock, and recreationists from enjoying the environment. As this seed showed up in bird food we primarily find it near bird feeders, but have found it in pastures and allyways – anywhere the birds fly or roost.

**Defense:** As with all annuals, mechanical control is very useful. When digging it up just make sure that you get 2-3 inches of the root out of the ground and it will control the weed. Early in the spring you can use various herbicides such as 2,4-D, Banvel, or similar broadleaf herbicide. I do not recommend using Roundup as it is a non-selective herbicide and will also kill the surrounding grasses that are needed to keep other weeds from encroaching. If you suspect this plant is near your bird feeder call your local weed authority for proper identification and control. Follow us on Facebook: Baker County Noxious Weed District.