

Puncture Vine removal

Mechanical Control

1. Grasp the top of the taproot, and slowly pull the goat head up with a twisting motion. You'll want to pull up goat head before or during flowering. Goat head germinates in the spring and summer, and it starts flowering within three weeks of germination. For severely infested areas, till the top 1 inch of the soil when the goat head plants are seedlings.
2. Collect burrs by hand with heavy-duty gloves. Discard the burrs in a plastic bag. For severely infested areas, pick up burrs by patting the ground with a small piece of carpet.
3. Apply 3 inches of organic mulch to infested areas. Mulch will block out light and prevent goat head seeds from germinating. However, if a burr falls onto the surface of the mulch, it will germinate.

Chemical Control

1. Treat infested areas with a pre-emergent herbicide containing the active ingredient benefin, oryzalin or trifluralin. Depending on the herbicide, the best time to treat goathead infestations is late winter to spring. Herbicides have varying strengths, forms and ingredients, so carefully follow the label instructions for the correct timing, mixing and method of application.
2. Spray emergent goat head with a post-emergent herbicide containing the active ingredient glyphosate. Glyphosate will kill or severely injure any plants, so use it carefully around landscape plants. Since glyphosate is so effective at killing plants, it should only be used as a spot treatment.
3. Treat infested areas with a post-emergent herbicide containing the active ingredient 2,4-D or dicamba. Post-emergent herbicides are most effective on young plants. As with pre-emergent herbicides, follow the label instructions for the correct timing, mixing and method of application.