Cenchrus echinatus

Common sandbur

Cenchrus echinatus L.

Family: Poaceae

Description: Annual bunchgrass to 2 ft tall, profusely branched, stems (culms) flat, decumbent at base, smooth or rough. Sheaths to 3 inches long, smooth or rough with whitish collar, compressed. Ligules densely hairy. Blades to 3.5 inch long, upper surface rough. Inflorescences upright; develops burs at flowering stem terminals that readily detach and adhere to clothing, fur, and feathers[70]. *Echinatus*, armed with spines, a reference to the burs[69].

Distribution: From tropical America, now widely distributed throughout the temperate and tropic zones. Infests dry areas on all the main islands and the Northwestern Islands. First collected on O‘ahu in 1867[70].

Environmental impact: Infests dry areas especially along leeward coastal areas. Burs a nuisance for people and dangerous for hatchlings of seabirds on the Northwestern Islands.

Management: Sensitive to glyphosate. However, seed reservoir in soil suggests a preemergence herbicide would be helpful in nesting areas.

This is an excerpt from *Weeds of Hawai‘i’s Pastures and Natural Areas; An Identification and Management Guide* by P. Motooka et al.
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