Other common names: Curveseed butterwort, little bur, testiculate buttercup

Scientific name: *Ceratocephala testiculatus*

Family: Ranunculaceae

Description: A small, 2- to 5-inch tall plant that grows and flowers early in spring, bur buttercup produces stiff burrs that help spread this weed. It is toxic to livestock.

Leaves: Grayish-green, hairy, and attached at the base of the plant. Leaf blades look like fingers.
Stems: Short; extend outward from the base of the plant.
Flowers: Small, yellow, with 2 to 5 petals. Blooms from late winter to early spring.
Fruit: Forms many stiff, brown burrs. This is the point at which most people notice the plant.
Roots: Short taproot.

Native to: Eurasia; naturalized throughout much of the western United States

Where it grows: Roadsides, vacant lots, in pavement cracks and other disturbed or unmanaged sites

Life cycle: Winter annual (sprouts in fall and early winter)

Reproduction: Reproduces by seed
Control methods: Bur buttercup should be controlled prior to seed formation. As this occurs very early in the spring, careful monitoring is needed to stop the spread of this weed.

Mechanical: Dig, hoe or pull young seedlings. Use mechanical control methods prior to formation of flowers and burrs.

Cultural: Thick mulches can help prevent seed germination. Plant desirable vegetation that will shade the area and reduce germination and growth of young plants.

Biological: None.

Chemical: Apply broadleaf-selective herbicides on young plants. Pre-emergence herbicides can be used to manage existing seed banks.

References:


