

Bothered by Sandmat?

Tired of getting stickers in your feet every time you walk barefoot in your yard?

Sick of picking thorny seeds out of your pet's fur and paws?



For more information on enjoying your yard this summer contact:

**Grays Harbor County
Noxious Weed Control Board**

PO BOX R
Elma, WA 98501
(360) 482 2265
[Http://Graysharborwa.WSU.edu](http://Graysharborwa.WSU.edu)

**Ocean Shores Interpretive Center
Gene Woodwick, Director**

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Ocean Shores, WA 98569
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This brochure is a cooperative project of the Ocean Shores Interpretive Center and the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board

Sandmat

Cardionema ramosissimum



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SANDMAT

Sandmat (*Cardionema ramosissimum*) is a native perennial with a mat-like growth form. The mats can become 1-2 feet wide and rarely grow above 1 foot tall. This low profile allows the plant to thrive in the windy coastal environment. Sandmat's tiny green flowers are no larger than 1 inch in diameter.



Also known as *sandcarpet*, this gnarly native is covered in spines and thrives in sandy, nutrient-poor soils. It will bloom in march and produce spikey seed pods in the summer.



HOW CAN HOMEOWNERS MANAGE IT?

It is recommended that vacation home owners do not attempt to maintain large grass lawns. That strategy is not very practical given the tenacity of this species and how quickly infestation occurs. Those who live on the premises full time can pull it's starts, and maintain a hearty, healthy, slightly taller, lawn. Supporting the lawn (especially by watering heavily in the summer) is the best defense against sandmat establishment. Replace sod annually and visit the Ocean Shores Interpretive Center for a suggested native plant list.



If already infested, prevent further spread to new areas by dragging a burlap sack, partially filled with sand, across the lawn to pick up any seeds currently present.

PREVENTION IS ALWAYS THE BEST STRATEGY!

Competition is an excellent prevention strategy. Consider planting native species on the perimeter of your property or lawn to discourage the transfer of sandmat seeds by animal, people or wind activity. Actively prevent the introduction of sandmat seeds by cleaning and inspecting gear before bringing it back home. This includes shoes, pets, clothes, beach towels and any other gear you might take into a sandmat infested area.



It is recommended that if you hire a lawn or landscape service, you request that all equipment be cleaned between properties. Unfortunately, this is not common practice and these companies can act as a vector for the spread of various pest species. Prevention takes repeated efforts! Survey your yard regularly and pluck out starts before they become well established.