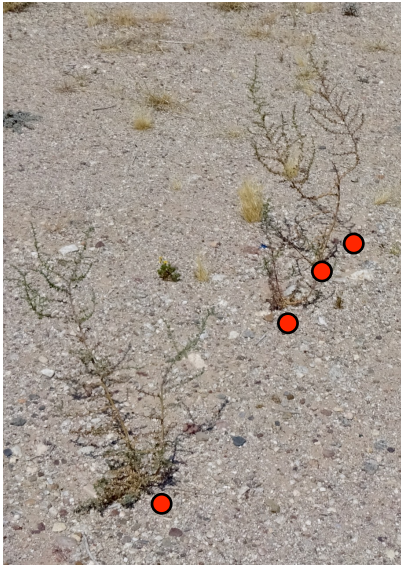


How to Identify Russian Thistle (aka tumbleweed)

Russian thistle will often stand out as a dark green patch, though color can range from dark green to blue-green. By mid-summer it may be over a foot tall and can eventually grow to 4 feet.



In years of limited rainfall, plants may be short and spindly, as are the 4 plants marked by red dots.



When you look closely at the plant you may see:

- stems that are tinged in red and striped or ridged.
- small translucent-white flowers held close to the stem (red arrow).
- sharp spines at the end of each leaf (see photo below).

If you touch the plant with your bare hands, it will "bite" you, so, make sure you wear gloves!

