

# Syrian Bean-Caper Fact Sheet

*Zygophyllum fabago*

Zygophyllaceae Family



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## Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** The flowers are small bunches of 5 petals with prominent stamens. They are white to light pink and can span up to .75 inches.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Seed pods are up to 1.5 inches long, oblong, and ribbed.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Leaves are oblong and grow from 0.5 to 1.5 inches. They appear in groups of 2 opposite each other on the stems. They are extremely waxy, lack hair, and have smooth margins.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** May through August.
- ❺ **Life cycle:** Syrian Bean-caper is a perennial succulent that sprouts in mid-spring and flowers from May through August. It produces seeds shortly thereafter, from August through October.

## Impacts:

- Syrian Bean-caper is very well suited to desert environments, growing extremely quickly and easily outcompeting other native plants.
- Syrian Bean-caper is unpalatable to livestock and can decrease the economic value of feed crops in infested areas.
- Once it colonizes an area, Syrian Bean-caper rapidly takes over due to its rapid growth and rhizomatous root system.

## Control:

- Small infestations of Syrian Bean-caper can be controlled by manually pulling, but special care must be taken to remove the entire root system as new plants can sprout from the rhizomatous roots.
- There are currently no biocontrol agents in use to combat Syrian Bean-caper in the US.
- Syrian Bean-caper can be effectively controlled through chemical means, although the waxy coating on its leaves can make application difficult. Picloram and glyphosate are commonly used to control this plant, but repeated applications are necessary. Surfactants can help improve the effectiveness of herbicide application.



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\*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



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