

I Hate Sandspurs... Ouch!

Yes, it is silly and unproductive to hate a plant, but I really hate the God-awful weed from hell, the Sandspur. It looks innocent enough, just like grass, but it produces tiny little burdocks that leap onto your socks, flip flops, and shoelaces as you walk. Then, later when you absentmindedly remove your clothes the sneaky little pricks impale themselves somewhere on your body.

When you try to remove the spurs they seem to dig in deeper or latch on to your fingers, pricking them. If you aren't wearing gloves, try licking your fingers before you remove the burdocks. The moisture softens the tips of the spikes enough so they bend instead of driving into your skin.

The dang things grow and thrive anywhere and can be especially worrisome when their dried-up husks fall to the ground. On the ground they can become contaminated with animal feces and e-coli, and then, if stuck, the contaminates can be introduced beneath the skin and into the bloodstream. That's a serious and unwanted infection.

The Sandspur is also called Burgrass or Sand Burgrass and is

an annual grass that grows six inches to two feet tall. The narrow, yellow-green leaf blades are 1/4 inch wide and two to five inches long. From July to September seeds are produced inside the spiny half-inch straw-colored burs that are formed on the stems. Each bur contains only two seeds but one plant may produce as many as 1,000 seeds that germinate in the spring.

One of the best ways to get rid of the pesky Sandspurs is to maintain a healthy lawn. Thriving grass will crowd out the Burgrass, and the weed does not like rich soil, so again a healthy lawn isn't a place they tend to grow.

To get rid of these threats, I've even heard of people, especially those with pets who come home covered in the spurs, dragging their yards with burlap to pick up the pricklers. This can get some of the pests but will not eliminate the problem.

I know this is just one person's gripe, but if we band together and pull, weed, and maintain our lawns and neighborhoods we can rid our community of the annoying, painful, and unattractive Sandspur.



Why Buy a House Now

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extra cost to the buyer. These are significant savings that add to your bottom line. Take advantage of this power now, because when the market starts to improve, some of this negotiating power will diminish.

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I hope that some of these reasons will be helpful to you

in making your decision and compel you to call a realtor today. Take a look at what's available here in this great paradise that we call the Keys.

Owning a home here is more of a possibility than ever before and I know you will be glad that you too can call the Keys home.

Contributed by Jane Wasmund Tropical Springs Realty CRS, SFR, Broker Sales

Editors note: One of the saddest things is to sit around and listen to the old timers regretfully talk about all the properties they could have bought for a song and didn't.

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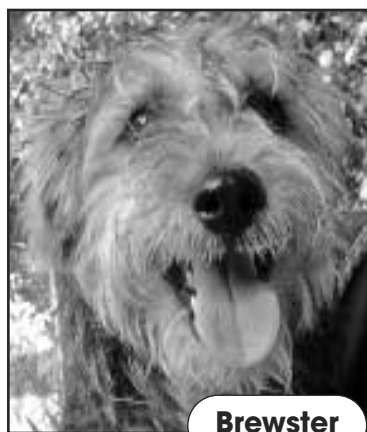
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