

*How you can help eradicate
Sahara Mustard:*

- **Walk your property often** looking for seedlings and mature plants (especially check near your road).
- **Involve children** in the search – it’s a good science lesson and after all, it’s their inheritance we’re talking about!
- Hand pull seedlings, root and all, or carefully hula-hoe just at the site of the seedling – being careful not to disturb native seeds and seedlings.
- Pull larger plants using gloves (the leaves are very irritating) and use garden tools to get out all the root.
- Dispose of all plant material in a tied-off plastic trash bag – a flowering plant can re-root and seedpods can mature even after the plant is uprooted.

Enjoy your time outside and the exercise knowing that for each plant you destroy you’ve prevented the growth of 1000s of them!



OTHER INVASIVE PLANTS

For a guide with close-up photos to help you identify and deal with 16 potential Morongo Basin invasive plants, use the QR code below for MBCA’s Other Invasive Plants page.



The National Park Service has published a Desert Invasive Plant guide:



MBCA’s mission is to educate for a healthy desert environment which nurtures wildlands and supports our communities’ rural character, economic well-being, and culture.



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HOLD THE MUSTARD!

Learn how to do your part in reducing the scourge of invasive Sahara mustard in the Morongo Basin and Mojave Desert.



It loves disturbed soil and lines the sides of Highway 62 in many places. But you can help reduce its spread by destroying all mustard in and around your yard.



PULL IT AND BAG IT!

SAHARA MUSTARD FACTS

- **First appeared** in North America in the Coachella Valley in 1920.
- **Invades the desert** along roadways and washes and wherever humans travel, unwittingly carrying its seeds.
- **Sprouts early** to grab soil moisture and nutrients before native annuals germinate.
- **Grows fast**, blocking sunlight needed by native wildflowers.
- **Causes 90 to 100%** reproductive failure of native annuals.
- **Produces 750 to 9,000** seeds per mature plants.
- **Increases fire hazard** due to the dried stems remaining upright for many months.



Dried Sahara mustard stuck in a native creosote, providing fuel for wildfires.



Sahara mustard crowds out the natives, almost eliminating wildflowers.



Try to pull them before they flower!



Pull it out of the ground in one piece if you can!

Look for news on social media for “mustard pulls” sometimes sponsored by Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave Desert Land Trust, or Friends of Big Morongo Canyon.



A successful mustard pull finishes up with a group photo in Joshua Tree National Park!