

## Prevention

Mowing equipment , vehicles, shoes, pets, camping gear can all move sandmat seeds around. Inspect and clean gear before moving to another site. Parks, gold courses and boat launches are common sources of seeds that are brought home.



If you hire a lawn service, please ask that they clean their equipment between properties.

To remove the sticky seeds, drag a burlap bag partially filled with sand across the lawn.



**For more information on enjoying your yard this summer contact:**

**Grays Harbor County  
Noxious Weed Control Board  
P.O. Box R  
Elma, WA 98541  
360.482.2265**

**[Http://graysharbor.wsu.edu](http://graysharbor.wsu.edu)**

**Ocean Shores Interpretive Center  
Gene Woodwick, Director  
P.O. Box 1842  
Ocean Shores, WA 98569  
360.289.4617**

**[Www.oceanshoresinterpretivecenter.com](http://www.oceanshoresinterpretivecenter.com)**



**Sandmat  
*Cardionema  
ramosissima***



**Sandmat is the least favorite plant along the beach. Its stickers plague humans, pets and wildlife.**

## Sandmat: A literal thorn in the side

“Sandmat is a literal thorn in the side of coastal landowners.” said Nancy Ness, Coordinator for the Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board. Management can be a time consuming and frustrating chore. This member of the Pink (Caryophyllaceae) family finds beach yards the perfect habitat, especially vacation homes. It prefers low moisture, poor soil nutrition and high traffic areas. This perennial blooms in March and spreads out over loose sand.



Sandmat is often mistaken for moss, until the thorns are discovered.

The mats grow from 1 to 2 feet wide and rarely grow above 1 foot high. Their low profile makes them an exceptional wind-proof plant. The tiny, green flowers, from 1/4 to 1 inch are very inconspicuous.

So what is a homeowner to do?

### Short Term

If you do not spend large blocks of time at your vacation home, it is simply not worth the effort to engage in warfare against this obnoxious plant. A large lawn is impractical for vacation homes on the beach. Consider leaving or planting most of your yard with suitable native plants and having a small lawn for outdoor use. Replace sod annually - think of your lawn as a big beach towel and quit fighting. Visit the Ocean Shores Interpretive Center for a suggested native plant list.



Close-up of spiny seed pod, sprouting.

### Long Term

Think healthy lawn. A well-watered stand of lush grass - left a little on the tall side, is the best defense for discouraging sandmat. Sandmat will not tolerate much water in the summer.

## Bothered by Sandmat?

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

Tired of picking thorns out of your pet's fur?



This brochure is a cooperative project of the Ocean Shores Interpretive Center and the Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board.