

ARCADIA CENTRAL

Newsletter of the Arcadia Camelback Neighborhood Association

September 2023

Stinknet Invasion Threatens Camelback Mountain



This summer, we bore witness to the destructive might of wildfires as they mercilessly swept through Lahaina (Maui), claiming at least 115 lives and reducing over 2,200 structures to ashes. Regrettably,

Camelback Mountain faces an escalating wildfire threat due to the encroachment of an invasive weed.

Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*), notorious for its offensive odor, is an invasive species originally from South Africa. Its growth has extended into California and Arizona. Classified by the Arizona Dept of Ag as a Class B noxious weed, it has been assigned a high-priority status for quarantine, control, and mitigation. This unwelcome guest has established a presence in Phoenix, Arcadia, and, most notably, Camelback Mountain, where, if left unchecked, it threatens to devastate the native desert landscape.

Sporting dark green, "carrot-like" leaves, its flowers contain anywhere from 100-200 seeds. Reaching heights of up to 2ft, Stinknet reproduces from late November through January. Flowering begins early January, with seed production by early February. During winters with ample rainfall, it can experience up to three generational cycles by late April! The plant emits an unpleasant odor and contact with its foliage can induce skin irritation. Allergic reactions may occur through pollen inhalation, plant handling, or exposure to caustic smoke when burned.

As temperatures rise, Stinknet plants wither and desiccate, allowing seeds to hitch rides on passersby or the wind. During this stage, the plants pose a significant fire hazard, as they are highly flammable. Stinknet is considered a "flash fuel," igniting easily and acting as a "ladder fuel" capable of carrying fire to higher tiers of the fire ladder, including shrubs and trees. The wildfire threat is undeniably real. A stark example can be found in Cave Creek, where Stinknet infestations fueled a 980-acre wildfire in 2020.

It is imperative that we take decisive action to

Take Action

The City of Phoenix Parks Department will be attending the ACMNA board meeting on Oct. 5th to discuss City plans for Stinknet control.

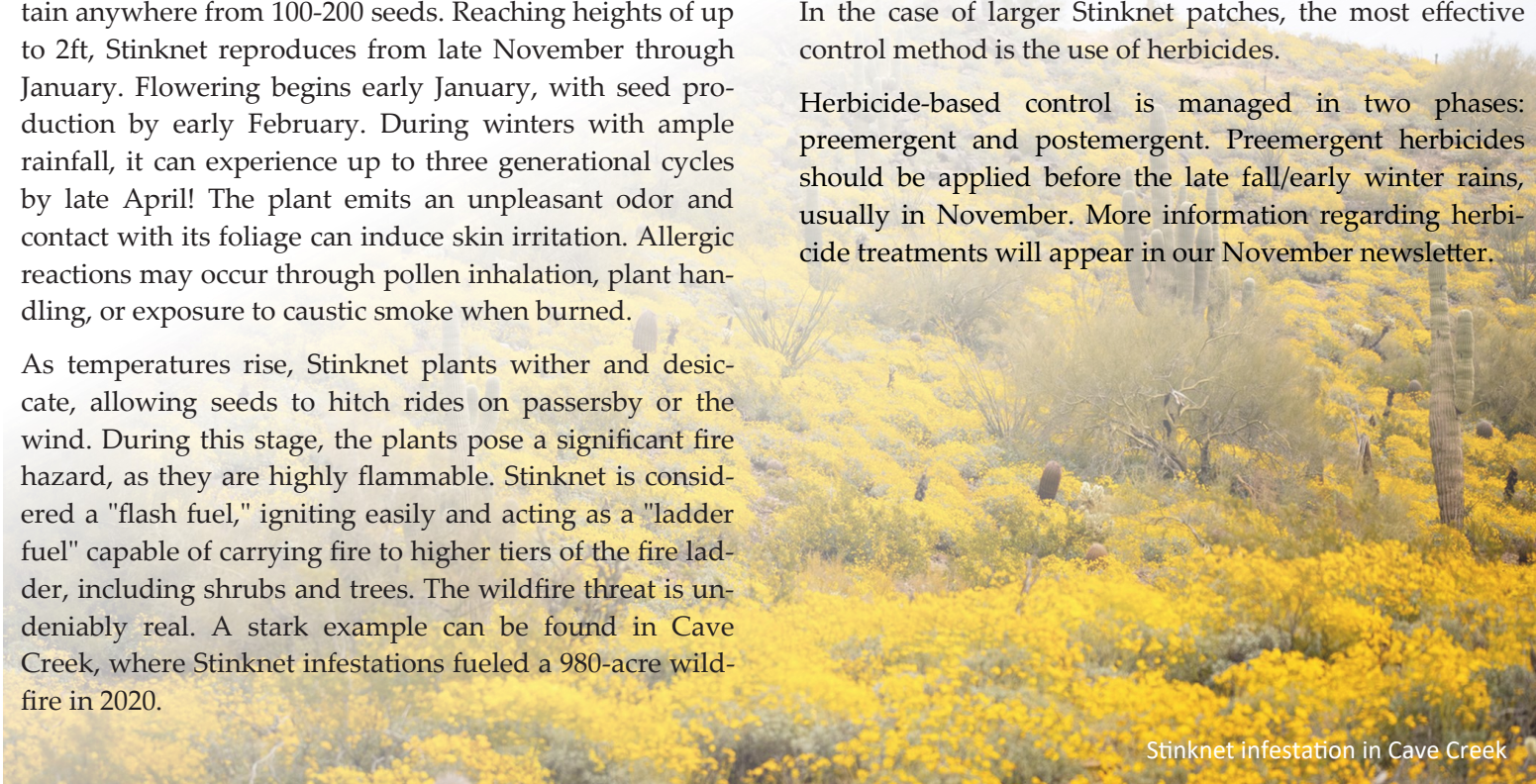
combat the spread of Stinknet noxious weeds and protect our precious landscapes from the devastation of wildfires.

The primary objective in managing Stinknet is to halt seed production. Once seeds are produced, Stinknet disperses them easily when physical removal attempts are made. It's important to note that herbicide application is not suitable for plants that have already gone to seed, as those plants will die naturally. Herbicides will not clear dried brush or kill seeds on standing plants. For isolated Stinknet plants, they can be effectively controlled by uprooting or digging them out by the roots. It's advisable to wear gloves and long sleeves to avoid potential allergic reactions. Stinknet does not regenerate from root fragments.

In the case of larger Stinknet patches, the most effective control method is the use of herbicides.

Herbicide-based control is managed in two phases: preemergent and postemergent. Preemergent herbicides should be applied before the late fall/early winter rains, usually in November. More information regarding herbicide treatments will appear in our November newsletter.

Stinknet infestation in Cave Creek



Construction Update



Starting Fall 2024, construction on 56th Street between Indian School and Thomas will begin. The proposed improvements include:

- ◆ A 10 to 12ft multi-use path for younger cyclists, school-age children, families, and pedestrians.
- ◆ Providing a continuous multi-use bicycle and pedestrian path on both west and east side of the street for safety and connectivity.

- ◆ A 24" storm drain down 56th Street from Camelback to Thomas to improve drainage.
- ◆ Low-water use trees for shade adjacent to the sidewalk and multi-use path.
- ◆ Upgraded curb ramps and sidewalks to the latest ADA standards.
- ◆ Traffic calming to mitigate speed and improve overall safety.

The next phase of the project will take street improvements north to Camelback Road and will likely follow first-phase completion by about two years. In addition, this phase will include:

- ◆ City-maintained landscaping on the west-side of 56th between Camelback and Exeter
- ◆ Installation of a raised intersection at Exter and new stop signs for both westbound and eastbound traffic

For more on 56th Street improvements, visit:

www.phoenix.gov/streets/56thstreet

ACMNA Board Openings

Would you like to make a positive impact in our neighborhood? Joining our board means you play a vital role in preserving our community's unique charm and shaping exciting initiatives to enhance our residents' quality of life. Several board positions are now open. Communicate your interest by submitting the form found here: <https://t.ly/8J6g7>

Winter Construction Hours: Oct 1 – April 30

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, weekdays ONLY

Per City of Phoenix code, contractors are required to have an extended hours construction permit for any weekend or holiday work. ACMNA recommends contacting the builder or permit holder first. If necessary, report violations for the After-Hours Construction Noise Complaint Program

Call/Text: 602.320.1071 | Email: constructionnoisecomplaints@phoenix.gov

Attach photo if possible. For more information, visit www.phoenix.gov

Camelback Road Clean-up

**Sunday November 12
8:00am**

Have you ever wondered why our streets look so clean?

It's because of wonderful neighbors like yourself!

ACMNA provides:

bags, gloves, sticks, vests

We recommend: long pants, long sleeves, closed-toe shoes

Meet at Shemer Art Center

SE corner of Camelback Rd and Arcadia Drive

**Clean-up typically takes 90 mins
Bring the whole family!**

Is there a topic you would like us to report on?

Send it to us at:

<https://www.acmna.org/want-to-share>

ARCADIA

Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association
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Newsletter

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ACMNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Association Board of Directors meet at 6pm on the first Thursday of the month (Except July and August) Prince of Peace, Choir Room (NW corner).

These meetings are open to the public and Arcadia residents are encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted 5 days prior to meetings at: www.acmna.org/agendas

ACMNA website: www.acmna.org

Newsletter Archive: www.arcadiacentral.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/ACMNA

Sign up for our Email notices (sent only when important issues occur):

www.acmna.org/join-our-mailing-list

Water prices are rising...

Flood Irrigation to the Rescue!

THE HISTORY OF ARCADIA is intricately linked with the practice of irrigation. With the Arizona Canal demarcating the southern boundary, the majestic Red River Gum Eucalyptus trees flanking the Burgess lateral irrigation ditch alongside 48th St, and the tradition of flood irrigating homes, Arcadia's transformation into a verdant desert oasis owes its existence to irrigation. Beyond the aesthetic appeal of lush landscaping and the fragrance of citrus blossoms perfuming the spring air, the greenery also acts as a natural coolant, reducing temperatures during the scorching summer months.

However, in recent times, home developers have not been adequately preparing lots for flood irrigation. They have buried irrigation valves and exclusively relied on sprinkler systems for landscaping, a choice that has proven costly for homeowners.

In June, the [Phoenix City Council voted](#) to greatly increase [water rates](#). The first increase begins in October, with further increases in March 2024 and March 2025. Initially, water bills for the average household will rise 48%. Going forward, the city water department has penciled in increases of 9% per year.

Reviving Flood Irrigation offers a solution. This process involves identifying old irrigation valves and regrading properties to accommodate flood irrigation. To begin, you must ascertain the irrigation district that services your property. The majority of Arcadia homes fall within the Arcadia Irrigation District and are served by the Arcadia Water Company (AWC). However, some homes are serviced by SRP. As a rough guideline, homes situated between Lafayette Blvd and the Arizona Canal fall under the SRP district. You can confirm this by visiting the [SRP website](#).

Preparing your lot for flood irrigation entails creating earthen berms at the property's edges to contain the water, preventing it from flowing into your neighbor's yard, your pool, or your home. Inside the berm, the terrain should be as level as possible. The irrigation valve may be situated in either your front or backyard. Typically,



there is an elevation difference of approximately 4 inches between the yard containing the valve (front or back) and the other yard receiving the water (back or front). This elevation difference is often already present. For areas isolated by sidewalks or to facilitate water transfer between the front and back yards, underground pipes can be used. The installation is a one-time expense, as berms have a long lifespan and require minimal maintenance. Alternatively, short walls can contain the water, but the side exposed to water must be waterproofed.

Advantages of flood irrigation include cost-effectiveness, promotion of deep root growth, and the removal of salts from the root zone. However, it necessitates a one-time regrading of your yard. Irrigation schedules and specific procedures are dependent on your provider (AWC or SRP). Valves must be manually opened and closed, sometimes in the middle of the night, but many customers choose to hire a service provider to manage this.

If you are within the Arcadia Watering District, contact AWC at (480) 945-4621 to arrange for a representative to visit your home and provide guidance on restoring irrigation. For properties in the SRP service area, call SRP at (602) 236-3333 to establish an account. Contractors proficient in regrading include Farsight Construction and Premier Landscape & Irrigation, among others.

For those who prefer an alternative to lot regrading, cisterns can be employed to store irrigation water or harvested rainwater. This stored water can then be utilized by the sprinkler system. More information on cisterns is available in the [July 2022 Newsletter](#).

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www.arcadiacentral.com

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Preserving our neighborhood starts with you.

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Arcadia Picnic

Saturday, October 28

2:00—5:00 PM

Hopi Elementary School

FREE FUN for ALL AGES!



Burgers | Hot Dogs | Ice Cream | Soft Drinks

Phoenix Fire Dept ladder truck | Phoenix Police and K9 department

Dino Crew | Balloon Twister | And more!

Live music by Dusty Tuffet

This is ACMNA's way to give back to the community and connect with our neighborhood.

Enjoy a fun day with your neighbors

Everything is FREE!

Upcoming Events

ACMNA

Board Meetings

Oct 5, 6 PM

Nov 7, 6 PM

Prince of Peach Choir Room

3641 N. 56th St.

www.acmna.org/agendas

Phoenix PD Halloween Party

Oct 26, 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Mountain View Precinct

2075 East Maryland Avenue

Neighborhood Picnic

Oct 28, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Hopi Elementary School

Camelback Cleanup

Nov 12, 8 AM

Volunteers Needed!

Meet at Shemer Art Center