

Pignut

Hoffmanseggia densiflora

Also known as Hog potato, Indian rush-pea

Low growing, slender-stemmed perennial legume

Habitat

- Semi-arid but humid environment
- Any soil type: prefers alkaline
- Tolerant of light shade
- Roadsides and ditchbanks
- Fallow and waste areas
- Cropland
- Range and pasture (disturbed/overgrazed areas)

Flowers

- Yellow/orange, covered with small, sticky tack-shaped glands
- Hermaphroditic
- April thru October

Seeds

- Flattened, slightly curved, dark reddish brown pods
- Seeds are egg-shaped, gray, smooth and flattened

Roots

- Lateral roots 18" deep with swollen, tuberous storage organs
- Roots provide extremely high water transport efficiency

Shoots

- Weak, slender stems

Growth and reproduction

- Mature plant: 6-12" height
- Reproduction primarily from root-borne buds and tubers, some from seed

Management

- Tillage: 3-5" deep every 21-30 days (within 10 days of emergence)
- Grubbing/digging: must remove all tubers and roots
- Herbicides: picloram (do not apply to cropland)

Threats

- Extremely competitive for moisture
- Forms monocultures that exclude native flora and fauna

PIGNUT

