



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?
It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County



**SOUTHERN & MAT
SANDBUR**
Cenchrus echinatus
&
Cenchrus longispinus

[Known OC Sites & Status
Updates](#)

Distribution map & info:

- calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=1840



Southern Sandbur and Mat Sandbur are difficult to tell apart in the field, so are treated together in this information sheet.

They are fall-blooming, clump-forming annual grasses that grow up to 2 1/2 feet tall. Mat Sandbur tends to spread flat along the ground, while Southern Sandbur tends to grow upright.

They are native to North and South America, but not California.



SOUTHERN & MAT SANDBUR, P. 2



Seeds are burrs that have sharp, barbed spines up to 3/8 inch long. The spines can penetrate the hides and mouths of grazing animals as well as stick to clothing.

IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to **invasives@occnps.org**.

Leaves, up to 1/2 inch wide, may or may not have hairs. The ligule is a fringe of hairs.