

## Stinknet Student Reading

**It may look like a wildflower, but 'stinknet' is a menace to native plants and people.** By Debra Utacia Krol Arizona Republic, Published 7.00 am MT Mar. 26 2020, Retrieved and Adapted on 3/27/21 from <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-environment/2020/03/26/stinknet-globe-chamomile-crowds-out-native-arizona-plants-creates-wildfire-danger/2864576001/>

<sup>1</sup>It's pretty, sports feathery leaves resembling a carrot plant and bright yellow globes. It has an aroma that has been described as pungent, medicinal or astringent, and not even goats will consume it.

It grows like a weed and, left unchecked, it could destroy much of the desert landscape it blankets. It's become such a pest that the Arizona Department of Agriculture placed it on its list of noxious weeds in January.



That little green tuft dubbed stinknet by botanists and conservationists may look like a gift from Mother Nature, but it's actually a soldier in an invading horde of flora that's evicting native wildflowers and other plants that desert pollinators depend on.



Stinknet, known as *Oncosiphon piluliferum* or, more commonly around here, globe chamomile, is causing havoc north of Phoenix and in other parts of central Arizona. Battling this deceptively pretty invader calls for an army of conservationists, botanists, ecologists, citizen scientists, firefighters, master gardeners and homeowners.

Stinknet originated in South Africa, said Michael Chamberland, an assistant agent for urban horticulture at the University of Arizona's Maricopa County Cooperative Extension.

It was first spotted in Southern California in 1981 and, at one time, the plants were sold in farmers' markets, which spread them even more. "Nobody really knows how it traveled to the U.S," he said. <sup>2</sup>

Tonto National Forest botanist Robert Madera said stinknet and other non-native plant invaders are creating artificial grasslands, which add fuel to the summer fire load. Stinknet, he said, is another one of the invasive species that give forest managers headaches. And Thomas said forestry officials have confirmed that stinknet isn't palatable to any livestock and is likely unpalatable to native herbivores such as deer, squirrels and rabbits.

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<sup>1</sup> Image 1: "Nymphs' Playtime" by harefoot1066 is licensed with CC BY-ND 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/>

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3-2-1 Strategy Practice on Stinknet/Globe Chamomile

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1-ONE Name of Organism and Photograph or Drawing	2-TWO Geographical Points where it is located (Water or Land and Continent, Country or Region)	3-THREE Characteristics or Adaptations of the organisms that are unique for their survival

Vocabulary Practice

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary Word and Definition	My Illustration
<b>micro-organism:</b> an organism that is very small	
<b>macro-organism:</b> an organism that is large enough to be seen with human eyes	
<b>parasite:</b> is an organism that lives on or in a host organism and gets its food from or at the expense of its host	
<b>poisonous:</b> causing or capable of causing death or illness if taken into the body	
<b>native:</b> from the area (original)	
<b>invasive:</b> not native (original) to the area	
<b>autotrophs:</b> organisms that obtain their energy from solar energy	
<b>heterotrophs:</b> organisms that obtain their energy from the environment	
<b>herbivore:</b> an animal that feeds on plants	
<b>carnivore:</b> an animal that feeds on flesh	
<b>omnivore:</b> an animal that eats both plants and animals	

<b>unicellular:</b> an organism made of one cell	
<b>multicellular:</b> an organism made of many cells	
<b>organism:</b> an individual animal, plant or single-celled life form	
<b>flora:</b> list of the plants of a particular region, habitat or period	
<b>fauna:</b> list of the animals of a particular region, habitat or period	