

How you can help eradicate Sahara mustard:

- **Walk your property** often looking for seedlings and mature plants (especially check near your road)
- **Involve children** in the search — they have a keen eye, it's a good science lesson, and after all, it's their inheritance we're talking about
- **Hand pull seedlings**, root and all or carefully hula-ho just at the site of the seedling—being careful not to disturb native seeds and seedlings.
- **Pull larger plants using gloves** (the leaves are very irritating) and using garden tools to ensure you've pulled the complete root
- **Dispose of all plant material** in a tied-off plastic trash bag — a flowering plant can reroot and seedpods can mature even when the plant is uprooted. Take no chances.

Enjoy your time in the outdoors, knowing that for each weed you pulled you've saved yourself from having to pull 1000s of weeds next year

Join with others:

MBCA in partnership with the Joshua Tree National Park volunteer program, has adopted a wash east of 29 Palms. You can help MBCA in holding the Sahara Mustard from taking over this area and learn first hand just how effective interrupting seed production can be if done year after year.

To be alerted to volunteer opportunities for this important "Hold the Mustard" project, please email your contact information to info@mbconservation.org or send a note to MBCA, P.O. Box 218, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277. Please include the subject line..... *Hold The Mustard*.



HOLD THE MUSTARD volunteers 2006



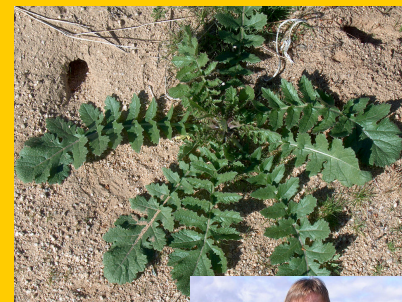
**MORONGO BASIN
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION**

**Post Office Box 218,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277**

www.mbconservation.org.

info@mbconservation.org

Photo credits to: Doug Burger, Deborah Dosier, Pat Flanagan, Ruth Rieman and Mark Dimmitt, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum



MORONGO BASIN RESIDENTS

***Do you have
Sahara mustard
on your property?***

Sahara mustard is an extremely invasive weed that is threatening our beautiful desert. Those spring wildflower displays that we all enjoy so much may become history if this exotic weed is allowed to continue its spread. Our native annual flowers cannot survive the onslaught of this aggressive competitor.

HOLD THE MUSTARD



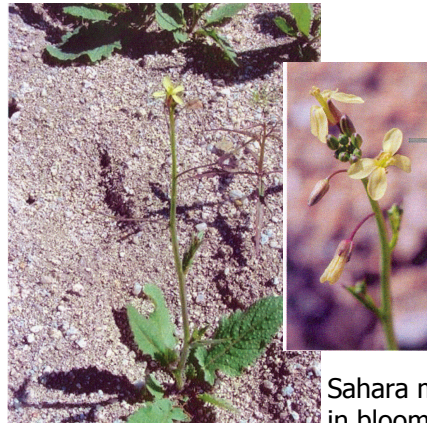
Sahara mustard crowds out the native wild flowers in parts of the Morongo Basin in 2005

Sahara mustard facts:

- **First appeared** in North America in the Coachella Valley in 1920
- **Invades the desert** along roadways and washes and wherever humans travel, unwittingly carrying its seeds
- **Sprouts early** to grab soil moisture and nutrients before native annuals germinate
- **Grows fast**, blocking sunlight needed by native wildflowers
- **Causes 90 to 100%** reproductive failure of native annuals
- **Produces 750 to 9,000 seeds** per mature plant
- **Increases fire hazard** due to the dried stems remaining upright for many months



Sahara mustard seedling



Sahara mustard in bloom



Mature Sahara mustard in typical sandy soil



Dried Sahara mustard stuck in a native creosote



Sahara mustard takes over clear-cut land next to a road and creates a fuel-rich fire hazard in 2006



1998 Wildflowers

2005 very few native wild flowers, mostly Sahara mustard