

Knawel

Scleranthus annuus L.

Life cycle: Prostrate, mat-forming summer or winter annual.

Leaves: Opposite, very narrow and linear, grayish green leaves with sharp points resemble pine needles or grass leaves. Leaves are joined at the nodes by a translucent membrane.

Stems: Grayish green, prostrate and spreading stems with numerous branches can form dense mats.

Flowers and fruit: Spiny, green or rarely whitish flowers are formed in clusters in the leaf axils. Flowers are generally not distinguishable. Egg-shaped, capsulelike fruit contain one seed.

Reproduction: Seeds.



All photos this page: Steven A. Gower

Knawel plant.

Similar weeds

Birdseye pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens* L.). Differs by having a perennial nature with spreading stolons; bright green foliage; more distinguishable, small white flowers; and fruit that are persistent capsules with many seeds.



Birdseye pearlwort flowers.



Birdseye pearlwort plants.