

# North West Regional Best Practice Guide for:

## African boxthorn



**Botanical name:** Lycium ferossim

**Common names:** African boxthorn, boxthorn.

African boxthorn is a very thorny bush, restricting movement of humans and most animals. Birds spread the plant's many seeds, usually depositing them under trees. As plants grow, they take over the shaded area, denying access to livestock and creating the perfect harbour for rabbits, foxes, feral cats and pigs.

### Your responsibilities

Under the the General Biosecurity Duty - Biosecurity Act 2015, a General Biosecurity Duty applies to all dealings (as defined in the Act) with this species. Any person who deals with this species who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk posed by the plant, a carrier or a dealing, has a duty to ensure the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

### The penalties

The maximum penalties for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the Biosecurity Act 2015 are:

- In the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- In the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- In the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- In the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

### Recommendations and requirements

Under the Regional Recommended Measure, the following is needed to demonstrate compliance with the Act:

- Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land and should mitigate spread from their land.
- Land managers should prevent seed and propagules spreading from their land.
- Land managers reduce the impacts of the plant on priority assets.

Mandatory measure (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017) - A person must not import into the State or sell.

Under Gunnedah Shire Local Control Requirements, land managers must:

1. Reduce the size and density of infested area by mechanical and or chemical control methods.
2. Maintain a minimum 100 metre buffer between existing infestations of African boxthorn and \*neighbouring properties.

\*Neighbouring properties include private landholdings and publicly managed land. Publicly managed lands include Council and State roads and Local Land Service stock routes and reserves.

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### African Boxthorn Control Calendar



#### Growth cycles

Germination: Mid-February-July; August to October

Perennial growth after good rains: January to mid-April

Normal winter growth: May to mid-October

Flowering seed set: July to mid-October

#### Integrated control techniques and alternatives

Herbicide optimum: June to October

Mechanical: January to end of December

Follow-up regrowth: June to October

### Registered herbicide application rates:

- Triclopyr 300g/L + Picloram 100g/L + Aminopyralid 8g/L. (Grazon ®Extra ) at 500ml/100L water. (over all foliar, spot spraying) Only apply to plants less than 2m tall.
- Triclopyr 300g/L + Picloram 100g/L (various trade names) at 500ml/100L water. (over all foliar, spot spraying) Only apply to plants less than 2m tall.
- Glyphosate 360g/L (various trade names) at 700ml-1Litre/100L water, (over all foliar, spot spraying)

#### Critical hints:

- Apply when bushes have good leaf growth and cover with no leaf fall.
- Consult your LCA Biosecurity Officer- Weeds for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and SDS of respective herbicides.
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#### NOTE:

(a) All Control Techniques involving herbicide use, must comply with the directions on the herbicide label or the conditions set out in a current permit to use a nominated herbicide.

(b) All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the Pesticides Act 1999 and Pesticide Regulation 2017.

(c) All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.

(d) Growth patterns and the changes to optimum treatment times will vary with seasonal conditions due to air temperature changes that may coincide with soil and moisture availability.

#### DISCLAIMER:

This document has been prepared by the North West Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.

### Control methods/techniques

Combinations of the following methods are effective:

- manual/mechanical - manual removal in winter when ground is moist. Dig or pull them out using a tilted dozer blade, ripper tine/point or snig chain. All crown and heavy root material must be removed during this process or suckering may occur. Burn the dry material the following season.
- chemicals - there are a number of registered herbicides for use on African boxthorn for foliar and spot spraying, cut stump and basal bark methods.
- cultural/biological - currently, there are no successful biological control agents for use on African boxthorn.

### For further information:

Gunnedah Shire Council Biosecurity Officer - Weeds.

63 Elgin Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380

T: (02) 6740 2100

E: council@gunnedah.nsw.gov.au