

North West Regional Best Practice

Guide for:

Alligator Weed



Botanical name: Alternanthera philoxeroides

Common names: Alligator Weed

Alligator weed is a potentially devastating weed that grows in water and on land, affecting both waterways and floodplain areas. It is listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). It grows extremely quickly and is very tolerant of normal control measures making it a major threat to wetlands, rivers and irrigation systems. Alligator weed is considered one of the world's worst weeds because it impacts on both aquatic and terrestrial environments.

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. The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown, carried or released into the environment
- Biosecurity Regulation 2017 - Part 5, Division 2 (Biosecurity Zone) - An owner or occupier of land in the alligator weed biosecurity zone on which there is the weed must (a) if the weed is part of a new infestation of the weed on the land, notify the local control authority for the land as soon as practical in accordance with Part 6, and (b) eradicate the weed or if that is not practicable, destroy as much of the weed as practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed.

Mandatory measure - A person must not import into the State or sell.

An exclusion zone exists within Gunnedah Shire. Under Gunnedah Shire Local Control Requirements, an owner or occupier of land in who knows or suspects alligator weed is present on their property must:

1. Notify Gunnedah Shire Council as soon as practicable in accordance with Part 6, and
2. Eradicate the weed or if that is not practical destroy as much of the weed as practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed.

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Alligator Weed Control Calendar



Growth cycles

Growing season: October - end of May

Prostrate growth: July to mid-November

Flowering: December to May

Integrated control techniques and alternatives

Herbicide optimum: November to end of May

Physical removal-deep burial: January to end of December

Registered herbicide application rates:

- PERMIT 84772 Expires 30/06/2022 Imazapyr 250 g/L (Imazapyr 250 g/L) Rate: 500 ml in 100 L of water Comments: Plus Hasten or Uptake spray oil
- PERMIT 14733 Expires 30/06/2019 Dichlobenil 67.5 g/kg (Casoron G®) Rate: 43–63 g per square metre Comments: Granular application for home garden situations
- PERMIT 14733 Expires 30/06/2019 Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®) Rate: 10 mL in 1 L of water Comments: For control in urban and residential backyards
- PERMIT 14733 Expires 30/06/2019 Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (Brush-off®) Rate: 1 g in 10 L of water Comments: For control in urban and residential backyards.
- PERMIT 14734 Expires 30/06/2019 Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (Brush-off®) Rate: 10 g per 100 L water (to a maximum rate of 600 L/ha of weed surface)
- PERMIT 14200 Expires 30/06/2018 Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (Brush-off®) Rate: 10 g in 100 L of water
- Glyphosate 360 g/L (Only products registered for aquatic use) Rate: 10 mL per 1 L of water Comments: Spot spray. Actively growing from summer through winter,
- Metsulfuron-methyl 300 g/kg + Aminopyralid 375 g/kg (Stinger™) Rate: 20 g per 100 L of water Comments: Spot spray application, for terrestrial situations only.
- Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (Brush-off®) Rate: 10 g per 100 L water Comments: Apply in terrestrial situations only.

Critical hints:

- Apply to actively growing plants.
- Consult your LCA Biosecurity Officer- Weeds for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and SDS of respective herbicides.

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

Note:

- 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.
 - All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the Pesticides Act 1999 and Pesticide Regulation 2017.
 - All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
 - 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.