

North West Regional Best Practice Guide for: **Parthenium Weed**



Botanical name: Parthenium hysterophorus

Common names: Parthenium weed

Parthenium weed adversely affects human and animal health and can cause respiratory problems, severe dermatitis and meat can be tainted if stock eat the plant within one month of slaughter. Landowners are advised never to touch the plant with bare hands and always use a dust mask if working near the weed for extended periods. Allergic reactions are not always experienced with the first contact with the plant but can develop after a number of exposures. Once a reaction to parthenium weed develops, some individuals may show similar reactions to related plants such as sunflowers. This reaction can be so severe that allergic people can be forced to move away from parthenium weed-infested areas.

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 comply with the Act:

- Prohibited matter (part 4, Biosecurity Act, 2015) - A person who deals with any biosecurity matter that is prohibited matter throughout the State is guilty of an offence.

Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 35, Biosecurity Regulation, 2017) - parthenium weed carriers-machinery and equipment:

(1) This clause applies to the following equipment:

- (a) grain harvesters (including the comb or front)
- (b) comb trailers (including the comb or front)
- (c) bins used for holding grain during harvesting operations
- (d) augurs or similar equipment used for moving grain
- (e) vehicles used for transporting grain harvesters
- (f) vehicles used as support vehicles with grain harvesters and that have been driven in paddocks during harvest operations
- (g) mineral exploration drilling rigs and vehicles used for transporting those rigs

(2) A person must not import into the State from

Queensland any equipment to which this clause applies.

Under Gunnedah Shire Local Control Requirements:

1. The land is kept free of the plant, and
2. Land managers will mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.
3. Land owners must notify Council of any infestations of parthenium weed in the Shire.

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Control Calendar



Growth cycles

Germination: Every month except most of July

Flower and seed set: Every month except most of July

Active growth: Every month except most of July

Integrated control techniques and alternatives

Physically remove plants and destroy by burning anytime throughout the year

Herbicide use: All year

Follow up any regrowth as it appears and destroy by physical removal or spray with herbicides: All year

Registered herbicide application rates:

- 24-D 300 g/L + Picloram 75 g/L (Tordon® 75-D) Rate: 125 mL per 100 L of water Comments: Spot spray. Rosette stage when plants are actively growing.
- 24-D 300 g/L + Picloram 75 g/L (Tordon® 75-D) Rate: 3.0 L/ha, Atrazine 900 g/kg (Various products) Rate: 3.3 L/ha Comments: Protects against emerging seedlings.
- Dicamba 500 g/L (Kamba® 500) Rate: 40 mL per 100 L of water Comments: Spot spray, Dicamba 500 g/L (Kamba® 500) Rate: 600 mL/ha Comments: Boom spray. Apply to young, actively growing plants, Hexazinone 250 g/L (Velpar® L) Rate: 70 mL per 100 L of water Comments: Apply uniformly over the area. When spraying single plants treat soil for 1 m around. Do not use near desirable trees. Metsulfuron-methyl 300 g/kg + Aminopyralid 375 g/kg (Stinger™) Rate: 10 g per 100 L of water
- Comments: Hand gun application. Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (Brush-off®) Rate: 5 g per 100 L of water Comments: Thoroughly wet all foliage to the point of run-off.

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.

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.

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