

# North West Regional Best Practice

## Guide for:

# Velvety Tree Pear



**Botanical name:** *Opuntia tomentosa*

**Common names:** Velvety tree pear

Velvety tree pear is a native of central Mexico and can grow to 8m high. The plant has a distinctive velvety covering on segments. It has yellow flowers and the fruit is red when ripe. Velvety tree pear can be controlled biologically using cochineal, *Dactylopius tomentosus*. Felling of large plants once cochineal is established often results in more rapid control compared with unfelled plants. The cactoblastis moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum*, causes little damage to large plants but causes significant damage to small plants and seedlings.

## 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:

- Manage those identified as Key Emerging at the controllable level before they cross the threshold where control of spread is no longer an option.
- 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:

1. Reduce the size and density of infested area by physical, mechanical and or chemical control methods, and
2. Eliminate or minimise the risk of spread onto neighbouring lands.

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### Control Calendar



#### Growth cycles

Germination: September through to beginning of May

Segments set roots onto bare soil after rain: September through to beginning of May

Flower and fruit set and active growth: September through to beginning of May

#### Integrated control techniques and alternatives

Physically remove plants and destroy by burning anytime throughout the year

Herbicide use: Mid-August through to beginning of May. Release bioagents: Mid-August through to beginning of January

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

#### Registered herbicide application rates:

Biological Control: Velvety Tree Pear can be controlled biologically using cochineal, *Dactylopius tomentosus*. Felling of large plants once cochineal is established often results in more rapid control compared with unfelled plants. The cactoblastis moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum*, causes little damage to large plants but causes significant damage to small plants and seedlings.

Registered Herbicide Application Rates:

- PERMIT 14442 Expires 30/06/2018 Picloram 100 g/L + Triclopyr 300 g/L + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (Grazon Extra®) Rate: 500 mL in 100 L of water foliar spray
- PERMIT 14442 Expires 30/06/2018 Triclopyr 300 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L (Grazon® DS) Rate: 500 mL per 100 L of water Apply thoroughly as a foliar spray
- PERMIT 14442 Expires 30/06/2018 Triclopyr 600 g/L (Garlon® 600) Rate: 1 L per 75 L of diesel Comments: Spot spray application  
Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (Access™) Rate: 1.0 L per 60 L of diesel Comments: Foliar application.

Critical Comments:

- Apply when plants are actively growing.
- 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.

#### For further information:

Gunnedah Shire Council Biosecurity Officer - Weeds.  
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