



Weed Management Information

Noogoora burr

Botanical name: *Xanthium occidentale* (*X. pungens* alternative)

Weed Class: Class 4 noxious weed

Legal requirements: The growth of the plant must be managed in a manner that reduces its numbers, spread and incidence and continuously inhibits its reproduction.

Control options

Effective control of Noogoora burr requires the prevention of seeding for at least four to six years and the elimination of sources of reinfestation. Pasture improvement combined with herbicide treatment is the favoured method of control on grazing lands.

Manual control: Seedlings and individual plants can often be pulled up by hand. Manual hoeing or slashing should occur before burr formation. Plants with burrs should be collected and burnt.

Cultivation: Repeated cultivation of seedlings following each germination is effective. Mechanical slashing should be undertaken before the burrs have formed. Plants with burrs should be collected and burnt.

Biological control: A stem galling moth, *Epiblema strenuana*, has been released. After a period of several years when it appeared to have little effect, the insect is now reducing Noogoora burr infestations. The moth was introduced into Australia in 1982 for the control of Parthenium weed in Queensland and was found to be also affecting Noogoora burr. The rust fungus *Puccinia xanthii* has shown to shorten the life cycle of Noogoora burr by reducing the growth rate of the plant. However seed germination percentage was not affected.

Chemical control: Use a herbicide that is registered for use on Noogoora burr in NSW and in a manner and rate stated on the label (or a current pesticide order). Seek advice from a Council Vegetation Officer or your herbicide supplier. Please ensure the chosen product is suitable for the designated land use and situation. Please observe all environmental and safety cautions that are stated on the label.

Description

Erect annual herbs to 2.5m tall with two growth forms; erect single stemmed or many branched and spreading. Extensive root system. Toxic to stock.

Stems: Rough to touch with short stout upward directed hairs, green and usually blotched or streaked purple.

Leaves: Dark green and similar in shape to grape vine leaves and about 15cm in diameter.

Flowers: Green in inconspicuous clusters around leaf axils.

Fruit: Hard woody burr with many hooked spines and two terminal beaks. Each burr contains two seeds 6-10mm long.

Dispersal: Spread by seed in burrs. Burrs are spread attached to animals, clothing and bags. Burrs float and are moved by water.

Habitat: Prefers rich soils in unshaded areas and along watercourses.



Noogoora burr

Photo: JM Iles and M Campbell



Noogoora burr seed

Photo: JM Iles and M Campbell

For further information: Councils Vegetation Officers Ph: (02) 6499 2222

Helpful websites www.southeastweeds.org.au
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds

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