



Weed Management Information

Crofton weed

Botanical name: *Ageratina adenophora*

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

Crofton weed can be controlled satisfactorily by a combination of several methods in conjunction with pasture and grazing management practices aimed at creating an unfavourable environment for weed invasion.

Manual control: Seedlings and individual plants can often be pulled up by hand or dug out with a mattock. Crowns must be removed to prevent re-growth

Mechanical control: Slashing often controls heavy infestations on accessible land. Regular slashing will reduce flowering and seed set, thus reducing spread by seeds. Slashing will also reduce the vigour and density of Crofton weed infestations and, combined with competitive pastures, will eventually bring them under control. A combination of slashing and chemical application is often used to eradicate Crofton weed.

Grazing management: Well-managed, competitive pastures are important in preventing weed invasion and this principle also applies to Crofton weed. Dense pasture swards suppress seed germination, but also livestock in conjunction with the balance of their feed eat small, young seedlings. Therefore, fewer plants grow to maturity. Goats are known to eat Crofton weed. The degree of weed control by goats depends on the stocking rate, weed density and the availability of other suitable feed. Controlling widespread infestations of Crofton weed with goats may be worth considering.

Chemical control: Use a herbicide that is registered for use on Crofton weed 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

A bushy, leafy perennial. Parts of the plant have a strong aromatic smell when bruised. Crofton weed has a tap root and an extensive fibrous root system.

Stem: Erect many-stemmed perennial to about 2 m tall. Stems are purplish in colour.

Leaves: Soft, thin, shaped like a triangle, with a toothed edge and conspicuous veins. Dark green upper surface, lighter underneath, and may be slightly hairy; 4-12cm long, 3-9cm wide.

Flowers: Clusters of white, tubular flowers. The clusters produced in profusion in early spring.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by wind and water over long distances, and is also moved by vehicles and machinery, and in clothing, soil and stock feed.

Habitat: Forms dense stands and prefers riparian areas and moist, nutrient-rich soil. It is poisonous to horses.



Crofton weed and close-up of flower cluster

Photos: JMiles 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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