



Weed Management Information

Gorse

Botanical name: *Ulex europaeus*

Weed Class: Class 2 noxious weed

Legal requirements: The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant.

Control options

Control is made difficult by the vigour and competitiveness of the plant.

Manual control: Seedlings and individual plants can often be pulled by hand.

Mechanical control: Grubbing or pulling out plants using a tractor. Dozing, ripping and root-raking can be used to remove as many of the roots as possible. Strong regrowth occurs from cut stumps. Burning is only successful in an extremely hot fire and a slow burn is achieved.

Cultivation: Following burning, a dense growth of seedlings emerges and this may be dealt with by cultivation, heavy grazing using sheep or spraying. Seedlings are susceptible to competition so establishment of a dense vigorous pasture to minimise seedling emergence is important.

Grazing: Following burning and the emergence of seedlings, goats are an effective control, preferentially grazing the young growth. Sheep, also, are effective.

Biological control: Biological control has been trialled but with only limited success

Chemical control: Use a herbicide that is registered for use on gorse 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. Whatever herbicide is used, plants should not be removed for at least six months. 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

An erect much-branched shrub to 4m high, commonly 1 to 2.5m high and to 3 metres wide. It reproduces by seed. A weed of neglected sites and unimproved grazing land.

Stems: Young growth green, older growth brown, woody when mature, ridged, hairy with numerous spines to 5cm long and short branchlets terminating in spines.

Leaves: Often dark green, narrow, spinelike, 1-3cm long.

Flowers: Bright yellow, pea-like, fragrant, 2 to 2.5cm long.

Fruit: Dark-coloured, more or less ovoid pod, densely hairy, 1 to 2 cm long

Dispersal: Heat from the sun bursts the pods, ejecting seeds up to 5 metres. Birds spread the seed over distances.

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



Gorse showing flowers and seeds

Photo: JM Iles and M Campbell



Pea-like gorse flower

Photo: JM Iles and M Campbell

Helpful websites

www.southeastweeds.org.au

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds

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