

Noogoora burr

Xanthium pungens



Noogoora burr is found along river and creek flats, on roadsides and in pasture land following seasonal rain or floods.

The burrs readily contaminate wool, significantly reducing the value of the wool due to increased processing costs. Thick patches of noogoora burr may deny sheep access to watering points. This plant is also a serious competitor in pastures and summer crops.

Seedlings are poisonous to domestic stock, causing death if eaten in sufficient quantities.

Declaration details

Noogoora burr is not declared under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*; however, it may be declared under local government law and be reflected in the local government area pest management plan.

Landholders are required to control declared pests on the land and waters under their control. A local government may serve a notice upon a landholder requiring control of declared pests.



Queensland Government

Description and general information

This plant is an erect, annual herb that can grow up to 2.5 m high. It has blotched purple stems. Leaves are dark green on the upper surface, similar in shape to grape leaves, 15 cm in diameter and roughly textured with minute bristles. Flowers are inconspicuous—both male and female occurring in leaf axils towards the end of the branches. Flowers develop into hard, woody, spiny burrs, 1.2–2 cm long, with numerous hooked spines.

Habitat and distribution

Noogoora burr is widespread in Queensland, occurring in tropical regions and the central and western regions (where it prefers alluvial flood plains).

Control

As this plant is an annual, infestations will be reduced if seeding can be prevented.

Biological control

Some level of control has been achieved with biological control agents including stem-boring and stem-galling insects, and a rust fungus (*Puccinia xanthii*). This form of control has been more effective in tropical areas where temperatures and moisture conditions are favourable.

Mechanical control

Cultivation or hand pulling isolated plants is effective if performed before flowering or burr formation.

Herbicide control

Before using any herbicide always read the label carefully. All herbicides must be applied strictly in accordance with the directions on the label. Details of herbicides registered for the control of noogoora burr are listed in Table 1.

Spraying with 2,4-D or MCPA before flowering will give favourable results. As plants mature, higher rates are necessary.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Table 1 Herbicides registered for the control of noogoora burr

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Winter cereals	2,4-D Amine 500	1 L/ha	Boom spray when young
Cotton	Fluometuron 500	1.3–7.2 L/ha	Boom spray when young
Fields/fallow	Glyphosate 450	0.8–1.2 L/ha	Boom spray when young
Fallow crop lands, headlands and drains	Ametryn	720 ml/100 L	Hand spraying for plants up to 60 cm and actively growing
Sorghum	2,4-D Amine 500	0.5–1 L/ha	Boom spray when young
Pastures (grass)	MCPA 500 (Amine)	0.7–4 L/ha	Boom spray when young
Turf, ovals/parks	2,4-D Amine 500	2–4 ml/1 L	Spot spray when young

Fact sheets are available from the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DEEDI does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.