



Noogoora burr

Xanthium pungens



Description

This plant is an erect, annual herb, to 2.5 m high, with 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 cm to 2 cm long with numerous hooked spines.

The problem

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

The burrs readily contaminate wool, significantly reducing its value through 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.

Distribution

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

Control

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

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

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

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.

Declaration details

Noogoora burr is not declared under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

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 croplands, 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/1L	Spot spray when young

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