



WEED CONTROL CLASS 4 MANAGEMENT PLAN

The control objective for weed control class 4 is to minimise the negative impact of those plants on the economy, community or environment of NSW.

NAME OF WEED: Prickly Pear

Common name: Prickly Pear

Scientific name: *Cylindropuntia* and *Opuntia* species, except *O. ficus-india*

The above mentioned weed is a noxious weed declared under section 7 of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

AREA OF OPERATION & PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL CONTROL AUTHORITIES:

Blue Mountains 4780 5000

CONTACT PERSON(S)

Weeds Officer: Ian Lett, Dave Whiteman

Council: Blue Mountains City Council

PLAN PERIOD

Starting date: 10 November 2006

Completion date: 28 February 2011
(Unless otherwise revoked)

CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE WEED AS PER ORDER 19

The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in this management plan published by the local control authority. The plant may not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

The Blue Mountains City Council specifies the following control measures:

Biological controls, Cactoblastis moth and/or Cochineal beetle, must be released on all infestations/plants.

If biological control agents are not available or cannot be accessed, the plant must be removed.

On public land, Prickly Pear will be strategically controlled and reduced according to priority and available resources.

CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS WEED IN THE AREA OF OPERATION

General information on control methods for this weed can be found at <http://www.weedsbluemountains.org.au> and in the most recent edition of the annual Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook or at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

All herbicide use is to be undertaken with a registered herbicide as specified on the herbicide product label or relevant off-label permit published by the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority. Herbicide use must comply with the Pesticides Act 1999, all relevant legislation, and Blue Mountains City Council's Pesticide Notification Plan as of February 2007 where works are carried out on public lands.

Biological Control.

Cactoblastis

Cactoblastis can be spread manually by distributing eggs or larvae. Cactoblastis moths lay chains of eggs called eggsticks on prickly pear pads between the periods of January-February and September-November. The eggsticks are distinguished from spines by their curved appearance.

1. Collect the fragile eggsticks carefully.
2. Glue single eggsticks to small pieces of paper using a starch based adhesive.
3. Pin the egg papers to prickly pear pads. (Eggs take up to 1 month to hatch.)
4. Collect pads or plants in which it is obvious that larvae are still active.
5. At a release site place all the collected plant material in a small part of the infestation.
6. Subsequent generations of moths will disperse through the infestation.
7. Follow up the biological control with either herbicide or mechanical treatment.

Cochineals

As there are several cochineal insects that affect some prickly pears and not others, it is essential to know what prickly pear you wish to control.

1. Identify your prickly pear type.
2. Find the same prickly pear type which is being attacked by a cochineal.
3. Collect pads of the prickly pear with the insects.
4. Place affected pads against unaffected prickly pears at the release site.
5. Follow up the biological control with either herbicide or mechanical treatment.

Tiger pear cochineal

Tiger pear cochineal is easy to multiply quickly after collection.

1. Carefully collect a reasonable quantity of unaffected tiger pear in a container (box or bucket).
2. Place a few pieces of cochineal affected tiger pear into the same container.
3. Cover the container with a cloth and store under cover for a few weeks.
4. Check the cactus occasionally.
5. When most of the tiger pear in the container has cochineal, it is ready to distribute.

Manual Control.

Plants can be removed by means of machinery and plants disposed of at an approved waste station/landfill.

Chemical Control.

Use a registered herbicide. Thoroughly wet the plant with a foliar spray or apply as a basal treatment for Tree Pear or Velvet Tree Pear.

Note: For infestations in sensitive areas (i.e. Significant vegetation – Endangered Ecological Communities other scheduled vegetation, steep slopes, and creek line vegetation) the landholder will be required to develop a Weed Management Plan (WPM) that will stipulate the control measures. The WPM is to be endorsed by Council.

LINKAGES TO OTHER PLANS, STRATEGIES (Local, Regional, State and National):

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Weed Strategy (under preparation)
Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Weed Strategy (under preparation)

SECTION 12 OBLIGATIONS (from the Noxious Weeds Act 1993)

Private occupiers of land must control noxious weeds on land.

An occupier (other than a public authority or a local control authority) of land to which a weed control order applies must control noxious weeds on the land as required under the order.

Failure to comply with a weed control order will incur a penalty.

Note: If an occupier fails to comply with obligations under a weed control order, those obligations may be enforced against the owner of the land as well as the occupier by a weed control notice issued under section 18.

PLAN ENDORSEMENT

This plan is endorsed by the Blue Mountains City Council.

Signed by:

Position: General Manager

Dated:

Please note: this document is only binding when reproduced in entirety.