



Weed Management Information

Bathurst burr

Botanical name: *Xanthium spinosum*

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

Effective control of Bathurst burr requires the prevention of seeding for at least four to six years and the elimination of sources of reinfestation. Pasture improvement combined with herbicide treatment is the favoured method of control on grazing lands.

Manual control: Seedlings and individual plants can often be pulled by hand. Manual hoeing or slashing should occur before burr formation. Plants with burrs should be collected and burnt.

Cultivation: Repeated cultivation of seedlings following each germination is effective. Mechanical slashing should be undertaken before the burrs have formed. Plants with burrs should be collected and burnt.

Biological control: An indigenous Australian blight fungus, *Colletotrichum orbiculare*, occurs on some infestations and is being developed by New South Wales Department of Primary Industries as a mycoherbicide. The accidentally introduced rust fungus, *Puccinia xanthii*, affects Bathurst burr.

Chemical control: Use a herbicide that is registered for use on Bathurst burr 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

Mainly summer-growing annual herb commonly 30 to 60 cm high, plants produce burrs in February. Plants generally die early in winter but mature plants may be found at any time.

Stems: Greenish yellow with fine short hairs, armed at the base of each leaf are one or two triple-pronged yellow spines.

Leaves: Divided into three parts, dark green shiny above with pale veins, pale green/whitish beneath.

Flowers: Creamy green, small and wind pollinated, appearing from February to July.

Dispersal: The burrs attach to the coats of animals and to other fibrous materials by their hooked spines. The fruits float and are readily dispersed in water.



Bathurst burr infestation

Photo: JM Iles and M Campbell



Young Bathurst burr plant

Photo: JM Iles 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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