



Local Law Declared Pest Plant for the Fraser Coast Region

Noogoora burr

(*Xanthium occidentale*, syn. *X. pungens*, *X. strumarium*)



ORIGIN: Native to America.

DESCRIPTION: This is an upright shrub to 1m tall, occasionally to 2.5m, is short-lived, usually an annual. Stems are purple, green-blotched and covered with stiff hairs. Leaves are 15cm in diameter, dark green on the upper surface, and roughly textured with minute bristles. Flowers are greenish-yellow and inconspicuous. Fruits are hard, woody, spiny burrs, 1.2cm to 2cm long, with hooked spines containing 2 seeds. Seeds are grey or black. This plant flowers during January to March, with seeds germinating in late winter to summer.

SPREAD: This plant is spread by the burrs (carrying seeds) attaching to animals, clothing and bags. Burrs can also float on water.

AREAS FOUND: River and creek flats, roadside and in pasture land.

CONTROL METHODS: Cultivation or hand-pulling is effective only for isolated plants.

Herbicide control includes spraying with 2,4_D or MCPA before flowering.

OBLIGATION OF LANDOWNERS: A local law declared pest plant is one that has been targeted for control under Local Government legislation.

This provides for the protection of the environment, public health, safety, and amenity within the local government's area.

Declaration under the Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment Management) 2011, and Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment Management) 2011 imposes a legal responsibility for control by all landowners in the Fraser Coast region.

All landowners have an obligation to:

- Eradicate where possible.
- Prevent the spread; and
- Reduce the existing size of infestations,

particularly where they have or could have significant economic, environmental, or social impact. This declaration also prohibits the sale, introduction, or propagation of Noogoora burr.

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