



Local Law Declared Pest Plant for the Fraser Coast Region

Saffron thistle

(*Carthamus lanatus*)



ORIGIN: Mediterranean and Western Asia.

DESCRIPTION: This is an erect standing annual herb, growing to 1m or higher. Leaves are grey green, up to 20cm long and deeply divided with stout spines. Stems are yellow-white or very pale green, flowers being solitary, yellow, and surrounded by spiny bracts. Seeds are grey-brown, egg-shaped, four sided and 15-8mm long.

SPREAD: This plant is spread by seed but is not rapid.

AREAS FOUND: Coastal areas of Queensland north to the tropics.

CONTROL METHODS: Physical control includes manually chipping out individual plants.

Mechanical control includes deep ploughing, to a depth of 10-15cm burying many seeds and reducing emergence.

Herbicide control including spraying or shallow cultivation that will destroy emerging seeds.

Further notes: In pasture areas avoid heavy grazing as it will encourage saffron thistle growth and apply superphosphate to promote pasture growth. Slashing shortly before flowering can also effectively prevent seed production. However, if slashing is carried out too early, plants often regrow and produce new flower heads.

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 Saffron thistle.

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