

# Griffith City Council – Noxious Weed – Management Plan



## Parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*)

Weed of National Significance

All of NSW Declaration



Class 1  
State Prohibited  
Weed

A Notifiable Weed



This plan is published in accordance with Order 30 (*made under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993*) and outlines requirements to control class (1) weeds by private occupiers of land in the Griffith City Council area.

### Plan period:

This plan commences on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Council reserves the right to review, revoke, vary or amend this plan at any time by publication of a revised control plan.

### Obligations of landholders (Section 12, 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.

**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.

#### Prescribed Control Measures as per Weed Control Order no. 30 made under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993

State Prohibited Weed – **“The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant”.**

- The weed must be prevented from growing within 20 metres of a property boundary or watercourse.

Treat all weeds prior to seed set by:

- Application of a registered herbicide as per label.
- Or by physical or mechanical removal.

#### Individual Management Plans

can be drawn up in consultation with landholders on request.

**Important:** Always read herbicide label prior to use. **Mixing rates should be adhered to**; applying extra chemical does not enhance the chemicals' ability to control weeds, but could contribute to "herbicide resistance".

Further assistance and information can be obtained by contacting G.C.C. on (02) 6962 3933.

### Correspondence contact

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### Plan Authorisation

Signed:

Position: *General Manager*

Date Authorised: *28/1/2015*

## Parthenium weed – *Parthenium hysterophorus*

Parthenium weed is a Class 1 State Prohibited Weed that must be reported to your local council weeds officer or to the NSW Invasive Plants & Animals Enquiry Line 1800 680 244. For more information see [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds)

**Non-chemical options:** Clean all vehicles and machinery. Maintain competitive crops and pastures. Do not spread the seed if removing by hand.

Chemical and Concentration	Rate	Comments
<b>Dicamba</b> 500 g/L Kamba®	40 mL per 100 L of water	Spot spray.
<b>Dicamba</b> 500 g/L Kamba®	600 mL/ha	Boom spray. Apply to young, actively growing plants.
<b>2,4-D</b> 300 g/L + <b>Picloram</b> 75 g/L Tordon® 75-D	125 mL per 100 L of water	Spot spray. Rosette stage when plants are actively growing.
<b>2,4-D</b> 300 g/L + <b>Picloram</b> 75 g/L Tordon® 75-D	3.0 L/ha	Boom application.
<b>Metsulfuron-methyl</b> 600 g/kg Brush-off®	5 g per 100 L of water	Thoroughly wet all foliage to the point of run-off.
<b>Hexazinone</b> 250 g/L Velpar® L	70 mL per 100 L of water	Apply uniformly over the area. When spraying single plants treat soil for 1 m around. Do not use near desirable trees.
<b>Atrazine</b> 900 g/kg Various products	3.3 L/ha	Protects against emerging seedlings.
<b>Metsulfuron-methyl</b> 300 g/kg + <b>Aminopyralid</b> 375 g/kg Stinger™	10 g per 100 L of water	Hand gun application.

**Parthenium weed:** is regarded as one of New South Wales (NSW) most serious weed threats. A native of the Caribbean region and is thought to have been introduced to Australia in the 1950s.

**Description:** Parthenium weed is an annual plant with a deep taproot and an erect main stem. The weed usually grows to a height of 1-1.5 m although it can grow to 2 m high.

**Stem and Leaves:** the upper half of the main stem becomes highly branched at flowering. The deeply-lobed leaves are alternately branched on the stems, pale green and covered with soft, fine hair. After flowering, most leaves die. Stems appear to be striped due to longitudinal grooves or ribs and they become woody with age.

**Flowers:** the creamy white flowers occur at the tips of the stems. Clusters of male and female florets are grouped as five-lobed flowers on the terminal branches of the flower stem and measure 4-6 mm in diameter.

**Seeds:** Seeds are small 1-2 mm across, flattened, triangular and dark brown-black with two thin, white, spoon-shaped appendages. The weed under favourable conditions can germinate, flower, and set seed within four weeks. Seed set is continuous until the plant dies producing up to 15,000 seeds in a growing season. Seeds can remain dormant for many years and seed close to the soil surface will germinate readily.

Conditions for the growth of Parthenium weed are ideal in most areas of NSW, once established, plants will survive droughts and frosts.

**Spread:** the main pathways for introducing this weed to NSW are: harvesting machinery, hay and grain, livestock floats, and vehicles from infested areas of QLD.

Parthenium weed becomes established in disturbed, degraded or bare soil sites such as: overgrazed, heavily-stocked areas, stock yards and watering points, along roadsides and fence lines, neglected areas, cropping paddocks recently harvested by contact harvesters.



### Health Impacts

The weed adversely affects human and animal health and can cause: respiratory problems, severe dermatitis. Allergic reactions are not always experienced with the first contact with the plant but can develop after a number of exposures. Once a reaction to Parthenium weed develops, some individuals may show similar reactions to related plants such as sunflowers. This reaction can be so severe that allergic people can be forced to move away from Parthenium weed-infested areas.

Landholders are advised to never touch the plant with bare hands and always use a dust mask if working near the weed for extended periods.

**Control:** Preventing the spread of Parthenium weed is the most cost-effective management strategy. Anyone in NSW who suspects they have found Parthenium weed **SHOULD NOT** attempt to control it themselves.

All suspected infestations should be reported (*within 24 hours of discovery*) to the local council Weeds Officer or the NSW DPI to confirm the identification. NSW DPI staff and council Weeds Officers will coordinate and carry out the control work.

The initial control cost of notified Parthenium weed infestations is covered by a contingency fund allocated by the Minister for Primary Industries.

*Images courtesy of the NSW DPI*



**Above** This image has been enlarged to show the structure of flowerheads. Each is the size of a little finger nail.



**Above:** Close-up view of leaf with white hairs a identification point.



**Above:** Parthenium weed showing seed heads and flowers



**Above:** Close-up view of Parthenium weed on the Mid-Western Highway – Hay N.S.W.