

# North West Regional Best Practice Guide for: **Tiger Pear**



**Botanical name:** *Opuntia aurantiaca*

**Common names:** Tiger pear

Tiger Pear is native to Uruguay and Argentina. Regarded now as the most troublesome of all cactus species in NSW and the worst *Opuntia* species in Qld. Probably introduced in late 1800s, has expanded to infest large parts of southern Qld and northern NSW, inland from the Great Dividing Range. Segments break from plants easily and are transported by water, stock and to a lesser extent by tyres. Extremely hardy, thriving in a range of habitats in the slopes and nearby plains, where large localised infestations still thrive

## Your responsibilities

Under the the General Biosecurity Duty - Biosecurity Act 2015, a General Biosecurity Duty applies to all dealings (as defined in the Act) with this species. Any person who deals with this species who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk posed by the plant, a carrier or a dealing, has a duty to ensure the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

## The penalties

The maximum penalties for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the Biosecurity Act 2015 are:

- In the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- In the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- In the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- In the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

## Recommendations and requirements

Under the Regional Recommended Measure, the following is needed to demonstrate compliance with the Act:

- Plant should not be bought, sold, propagated, grown, knowingly distributed, carried or released into the environment.
- Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. Land managers should mitigate spread from their land.
- Land managers should prevent seed and propagules spreading from their land
- Land managers reduce the impacts of the plant on priority assets.
- Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017)- A person must not import into the State or sell.

Under Gunnedah Shire Local Control Requirements:

1. Reduce the size and density of infested area by physical, mechanical and or chemical control methods, and
2. Eliminate or minimise the risk of spread onto neighbouring lands.

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## Tiger Pear

### Control Calendar



#### Growth cycles

Germination: February to beginning of June; August to beginning of December

Segments set roots onto bare soil after rain: February to beginning of June; August to beginning of December

Flower and fruit set: September to beginning of January. Active growth: February to beginning of June; August to beginning of December

#### Integrated control techniques and alternatives

Physically remove plants and destroy by burning anytime throughout the year.

Optimum herbicide use: February to beginning of June; August to beginning of December. Release bioagents followup in autumn.

Follow up any regrowth as it appears and destroy by physical removal or spray with herbicides.

#### Registered herbicide application rates:

- PERMIT 14442 Expires 30/06/2018 Picloram 100 g/L + Triclopyr 300 g/L + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (Grazon Extra®) Rate: 500 mL in 100 L of water foliar spray
- PERMIT 14442 Expires 30/06/2018 Triclopyr 300 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L (Grazon® DS) Rate: 500 mL per 100 L of water Apply thoroughly as a foliar spray
- Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (Access™) Rate: 1.0 L per 60 L of diesel Apply thoroughly as a foliar spray
- Triclopyr 600 g/L (Garlon® 600) Rate: 3.0 L per 100 L of water Apply thoroughly as a foliar spray.
- Triclopyr 600 g/L (Garlon® 600) Rate: 1.0 L per 75 L of distillate Apply thoroughly as a foliar spray.

#### Critical Comments:

- Apply when plants are actively growing.
- Consult your LCA Biosecurity Officer- Weeds for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and SDS of respective herbicides.

#### Note:

- (a) All Control Techniques involving herbicide use must comply with the directions on the herbicide label or the conditions set out in a current permit to use a nominated herbicide.
- (b) All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the Pesticides Act 1999 and Pesticide Regulation 2017.
- (c) All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
- (d) Growth patterns and the changes to optimum treatment times will vary with seasonal conditions due to air temperature changes that may coincide with soil and moisture availability.

#### For further information:

Gunnedah Shire Council Biosecurity Officer - Weeds.  
63 Elgin Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380  
T: (02) 6740 2100  
E: council@gunnedah.nsw.gov.au



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