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# NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

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## MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

### RHUS TREE

(*Toxicodendron succedanea*)

#### BACKGROUND

**Description:** Rhus is a large woody deciduous shrub or small tree 5 to 8m high with brilliantly coloured autumn foliage, reproducing by seed or suckers. Leaves are bright green above, greyish below during summer months, changing to brilliant scarlet and crimson in autumn, before shedding. Fruit is a pale brown, papery berry hanging in groups. Rhus is an allergenic plant, its sap causing severe dermatitis; all parts of the plant are dangerous.

**Declaration:** Rhus Tree is classified as a Class 4 noxious weed in the New England Weeds Authority Area.

Under the *Noxious Weeds Act of 1993* as amended:

- The control objective of Class 4 noxious weeds is that they must be managed in such a way as to 'minimise the negative impact of the weed on the economy, community or the environment of New South Wales'.
- The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a Management Plan published by the Local Control Authority (in this case the New England Weeds Authority).

#### CONTROL MEASURES

The New England Weeds Authority will control Rhus Tree growing on land for which it has the responsibility to control weeds under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

Owners/Occupiers of land are required to actively control Rhus Tree to prevent it from spreading, and its numbers and distribution must be reduced.

Owners/Occupiers of infested land are required to control Rhus Tree in the following manner:

- (a) **CHEMICAL** – The Rhus Tree is to be treated with a herbicide registered for the control of Rhus Tree, in the manner specified on the label; OR
- (b) **MECHANICAL** – The whole plant, including the roots, is to be removed. **Note:** Live Rhus Tree must be removed with extreme caution. Contact with the sap is dangerous. The risk of contact may be reduced by waiting until after leaf fall before attempting to remove the plant. Protective clothing must be worn. Dig up as much of the main root system as possible to reduce suckering. DO NOT BURN as the smoke is toxic.