



Trading as:

NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

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MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

SAFFRON THISTLE

(*Carthamus lanatus*)

BACKGROUND

Description: Saffron Thistle is an erect slightly hairy or sometimes woolly annual herb up to 1 metre or more high, which only reproduces by seed. It is generally single-stemmed and branched in the upper half. Flowers are yellow and solitary at the end of branches, surrounded by leaf-like bracts armed with very sharp spines. Heavy infestations can restrict stock movement and veterinary evidence shows that the sharp spines can be responsible for transmitting viral diseases in grazing animals.

The heavy seed falls close to the parent plant and is not spread by wind. Contaminated grain can be responsible for spread.

Declaration: Saffron Thistle 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 Saffron Thistle 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 Saffron Thistle to prevent it from spreading to adjoining properties and/or areas that are free of Saffron Thistle.

Owners/Occupiers of infested land that adjoins properties and/or areas free of Saffron Thistle, are required to maintain a ten (10) metre buffer zone along all such property boundaries, roads and watercourses, in a condition free of Saffron Thistle, in the following manner:

- (a) **CHEMICAL** – The Saffron Thistle is to be treated with a herbicide registered for the control of Saffron Thistle, in the manner specified on the label; OR
- (b) **MECHANICAL** – The Saffron Thistle is to be hoed, grubbed, ploughed, slashed, or otherwise cut, in a manner that prevents the formation and distribution of seed.