
MANAGEMENT PLAN

For

St John's wort

(*Hypericum perforatum*)

BACKGROUND

Description: St John's wort is a perennial herb, growing up to 1 metre in height. The leaves are alternatively positioned and have no stalk. The flowers appear during spring and summer; they are yellow in colour and have five petals. This plant is potentially toxic to grazing animals and may cause a dermatitis reaction in humans.

Declaration: St John's wort is classified as a Class 4 noxious weed in the Tamworth Regional Council area.

Under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* as amended:

- The control objective of Class 4 noxious weeds is that they must be managed in such a manner 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 Tamworth Regional Council.
- The plant may not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

CONTROL MEASURES

Tamworth Regional Council will control St John's wort, on lands for which it has the responsibility to control weeds under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, using herbicides registered for this purpose.

Owners/Occupiers of land are required to actively control St John's wort. This means to prevent St John's wort from spreading and to reduce the numbers of infestations and their density. All or any of the following control methods must be used to achieve St John's wort control.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: St John's wort is to be treated with a registered herbicide developed for this purpose. The product is to be used according to the product label.

Mechanical: Mature flower-heads can be carefully removed and burnt. The physical removal of isolated plants is also successful, all roots must be removed or the plants will re-generate.

Cultural: Intensive grazing pressure from sheep and goats will assist control practices; however, once new flower spikes appear the animals must be removed to avoid poisoning.