



Inverell Shire Council

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL UNIT

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Green cestrum



Green cestrum flourishing in a Bingara garden (5 Nov 2002 - LRT)

A native of Chile and Peru. **Very toxic!** Like many of our noxious weeds, green cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*) was introduced into Australia as a garden plant. It's an easy plant to grow, and the attractive, yellow flowers guaranteed widespread plantings in gardens everywhere. *Photo left: Typical green cestrum garden setting: the yellow flowers of green cestrum proudly on display in a front garden of a house.*

IDENTIFICATION

Green cestrum leaves are dark green, smooth and shiny. The distinctive flowers are yellow and trumpet-shaped. Photo below also shows the berries - some green and some ripe (black) ones (that's a thumbnail in the foreground, to give an idea of size.)



Close-up of Green cestrum leaf, berries and flowers (Photo LRT)

Cestrum grows to a height of around 3 to 4 metres. Apart from the bright-yellow flowers, there are two other important ID procedures:

- (1) The stems/branches are very brittle - they snap off easily.
- (2) Crush a leaf between your fingers. The smell is very unpleasant! Wash your hands afterwards!

Green cestrum sheds some of its leaves through the winter, and new growth kicks in during spring. Green cestrum officially flowers late spring to late summer, but the plant doesn't always follow the rules.



13 MAY 2004 Green cestrum (near Warialda, north LRT)

THE PROBLEM

Birds spread green cestrum seeds from garden situations to neighbouring lands. They often head for the cool shade of trees along waterways, and that's where the seeds are dropped. The new plants flourish in these well-watered areas, and the cycle continues at an ever-increasing rate.

Photo (left) shows how green cestrum can flourish when it's not controlled. Note the person in green overalls standing in the middle of photo.

Green cestrum can be toxic to animals including sheep, horses, pigs, poultry but **ESPECIALLY CATTLE!** According to "Noxious Plants of Australia" by Parsons & Cuthbertson (Inkata Press) it does not take much plant material to affect animals, "*which become feverish with poor appetites and increased thirst, are excited and sometimes scour before developing a general paralysis. Death usually occurs within hours of the first signs of symptoms so animals are often found dead without any symptoms being seen. Post-mortem examination shows general haemorrhaging throughout the body tissues, a large amount of blood in the bowel and severe gastroenteritis.*" [PTO]

MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WEEDS OFFICER:

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OR check out Council's website on www.inverell.nsw.gov.au, Environmental Services section

Green cestrum is a mysterious plant. Animals can graze in amongst it for months without any problems. Then, a change of weather conditions (notably, a fall of rain after a long dry) triggers a change in the plant which can cause stock to seek out the plants.



NEVER take the plant for granted. The main danger period for animals is when the plants have been broken off, chemically treated or drought affected. As the plant material dries out, it can become more attractive to animals. **Any part of the plant can be toxic.** Another danger period is when stock, particularly cattle, are put into a new paddock. In these situations, stressed/disorientated animals will often try plants they would not normally eat.

LEGAL STATUS:

CONTROL CLASS 3 NOXIOUS WEED: THE PLANT MUST BE CONTINUOUSLY SUPPRESSED AND DESTROYED.

CONTROL METHODS

Manual control is an option for small patches. However, physical removal of all plant material is difficult because the roots are hard to extract. **Never** leave any plant material where it can be eaten by stock. Drying plant material is at its most dangerous!

Herbicides: According to NSW DPI's excellent booklet "*Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 3rd Edition*", herbicide treatments include:

Chemical options	Rate	Comments (Treated plant material can remain highly toxic. Never let stock gain access to treated plants)
Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L eg Grazon DS®	500 ml in 100 L water	Apply from late spring to early autumn when bushes are active. Any regrowth and seedlings must be resprayed when 1m high
Triclopyr 24 g/L + picloram 120 g/L eg Access®	1 L in 60 L diesel	Basal bark application
Picloram 120 g/L +2,4 -D 300 g/L eg Tordon 75D®	650 ml in 100 L water	Actively-growing bushes in full leaf
Amitrole 250 g/L + ammonium thiocyanate 220 g/L eg Amitrol T®	1.1 L in 100 L water	Active growth, before flowering. PER11154 also allows use of this herbicide in AQUATIC SITUATIONS
Triclopyr 600 g/L eg Garlon 600®	170 mL per 100 L water	Treat regrowth next season
Triclopyr 600 g/L eg Garlon 600®	1 L per 30 L diesel	DO NOT over treat as excessive run-off might affect adjacent trees and shrubs through root absorption. Permit PER11427
Glyphosate 360 g/L (various trade names)	1 part glyphosate to 1.5 parts water OR 100 mL per 10 L water	Cut, scrape and paint. Permit PER5206 Spot spray. Permit PER5206
Picloram 45g/kg Vigilant®	Undiluted	Cut stump/stem injection application. Apply a 3-5 mm layer of gel for stems less than 20 mm. Apply 5 mm layer on stems above 20 mm (see label)

IMPORTANT: USE OF PESTICIDES - ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Pesticides must only be used for the purpose for which they are registered and must not be used in any other situation or in any manner contrary to the directions on the label. Never use herbicide in any way contrary to label recommendations.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this web site is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Inverell Shire Council or the user's independent adviser. (LRT 27/10/07)

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