



Inverell Shire Council

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL UNIT

Please address all correspondence to the General Manager, Inverell Shire Council,
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Mimosa Bush

Mimosa bush (*Vachellia farnesiana* - previously *Acacia farnesiana*) is an invasive and thorny plant spreading onto many grazing properties in north-western New South Wales. The photo below is a good example of the way mimosa bush can take over - in this case in a paddock on the edge of Yetman, New South Wales.



The 2002 version of Volume 2 of *Flora of NSW* describes the plant as: “Native of tropical America, probably introduced into Australia prior to European settlement. Widely cultivated overseas for its decorative qualities and the essential oil obtained from its flowers for use in the perfume industry. It is grown for hedges and windbreaks; however, it may form dense thickets and become weedy.”



Because mimosa bush was deemed to have been present in Australia at the time of first European settlement, it's classified by the relevant New South Wales government department as a native plant. It does, therefore, come under the Native Vegetation and Compliance Act umbrella and restrictions apply to clearing, especially in areas where it is not officially rated under the Act as an “invasive native species”.

Mimosa bush has value as a drought-tolerant feeding supplement. Sheep used to keep plant numbers down, but the trend towards reduced sheep numbers has been a major factor in the way this plant has taken off in recent years!



MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WEEDS OFFICER:

Les Tanner 02 6728 8284 - mobile 0427 241 806

Phil Sutton 02 6728 8244 - 0418 446 068

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

EFFECT ON ANIMALS

The dense and thorny nature of mimosa bush restricts stock access to grazing, shade and watering areas. The sharp thorns can cause eye damage to stock when they are foraging for grass amongst the base of the plant. On the credit side, stock obtain sustenance from new growth and the protein-rich seed pods. Unfortunately, the popularity of the seed pods ensures an ever-increasing number of new plants because the seeds pass through grazing animals (especially cattle) to be deposited randomly throughout the paddock. Each seed pod averages 10 very durable seeds.



IDENTIFICATION - MIMOSA BUSH*

Mimosa bush grows to a height of around 1 to 2.0 metres. Almost every part of the plant contains sharp thorns. Flowers are fluffy and yellow/golden (see photo). The seed pods are a prominent feature of the plant. [**Common name mimosa bush - known by many as "briar bush". Not to be confused with northern Australia's Mimosa pigra. Mimosa bush is sometimes incorrectly referred to as "prickly acacia".*]

LEGAL STATUS

Mimosa bush is currently NOT a declared noxious weed within Inverell Shire. However, landholders are strongly urged to keep this invasive plant off their properties! New, young plants are easy to destroy with herbicides, but older plants may need at least two treatments.

CONTROL METHODS

Non-Chemical Options: Manual control, in the form of pushing plants out of the ground with a tractor blade or the like, is NOT RECOMMENDED unless the area is followed up with intensive farming, regular slashing or careful chemical treatment. While clearing gives an immediate impression that the problem has been solved, the same area will soon be infested with regrowth from broken root parts. And, dozens of small seedlings will also emerge because the parent plant has been taken out. Controlled burning (minimum 2 subsequent burns - subject to fire restriction periods) can also be effective in some situations.

Chemical options: Mimosa bush is a very difficult plant to kill. Available herbicides are very expensive, and on established plants there is no cost-effective herbicide that will consistently do the job with only one treatment.

Chemical options	Rate: Spot/Boom	Comments
Triclopyr + picloram Access®	1.0 L in 60 L of diesel	Basal bark application. Ensure all stems are treated. Delay treatment of regrowth on bulldozed plants until 1m high.
Clopyralid eg Lontrel®	500 ml in 100 L of water plus surfactant	Apply as a high volume spray. Full coverage of shrub is essential. Apply to actively growing shrubs in full leaf. Please check full details as per as per Permit 11638
Metsulfuron methyl 600g/kg eg Brushhoff® PLUS clopyralid 300g/L eg Lontrel®, Clock® 300 PLUS non-ionic surfactant	10g metsulfuron methyl PLUS 300ml clopyralid PLUS 100ml surfactant in 100 L of water	Apply as a high volume spray. Full coverage of shrub is essential. Apply to actively growing shrubs in full leaf. Please check full details as per Permit 9005
Tebuthiuron 200g/kg eg Tebullan®, Graslan® pellets	2.0 g/m ² 20 kg/ha	Preferred timing of application October to April. Results will be dependant on rainfall and subsequent movement of the herbicide into the ground. Nil withholding when used according to label/permit. Please check details as per Permit 10040
Fluroxypyr eg Starane®	3.0 L in 100 L of diesel	Basal bark treatment of plants up to 5 cm diameter. Registered for use in Qld and WA only

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 the label recommendations.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained herein 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 19/03/10)

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