

What is a noxious weed?

A noxious weed is an invasive plant that has the potential to cause harm to human health and animal welfare, our agricultural industry, our local economy and damage the environment.

What are the impacts of noxious weeds?

Some weeds can affect human health or animal welfare causing acute or chronic poisoning, hay fever, asthma, dermatitis or photosynthesis. The spines and seeds of many weeds also cause physical injury.

Noxious weeds can displace native habitats and threaten the survival of endangered plants, animals and ecological communities.

Our agricultural industry incurs costs through reductions in the yield and quality of crops and pastures. Livestock can be poisoned or injured and methods of weed control can be expensive and time consuming.

Do I have to control my noxious weeds?

The Noxious Weed Act 1993 gives the Upper Macquarie County Council power to require owners and/or occupiers of land to control their noxious weeds. If this work is not undertaken, the County Council has the power to enter the land and carry out the weed control work at the owner's cost. The County Council can also issue a penalty notice or take prosecution action for offences under the Act.

The intent of the Act is to prevent the establishment of significant new noxious weeds, restrict the spread of serious weeds and protect other landholders from weed invasion.

Don't let the cost of weed control escalate.

Contact your local Weeds Officer now.

UPPER MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL

The noxious weeds control authority for the areas of Bathurst Regional Council, Blayney and Oberon Shire Councils and the Lithgow City Council.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WEEDS OFFICER:

Bathurst (north) 0429 455 912

Bathurst (south) 0429 455 189

Blayney 0429 455 382

Lithgow (north) 0427 660 045

Lithgow (south) 0428 963 296

Oberon 0437 766 626

HEAD OFFICE:

7 Lee Street

Kelso NSW 2795

02 6338 2875

www.umcc.nsw.gov.au

For control options visit weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au or download the free NSW WeedWise app



UPPER MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL



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SERRATED TUSsock

Serrated Tussock has no grazing value and infestations result in a significant loss in agricultural production. Each plant can generate up to 140,000 seeds every year which can spread by wind, with seeds remaining viable in the soil for many years.



BLACKBERRY

Blackberry bushes can join up over time reducing pasture production and forming a barrier restricting access to feed, shade and water for livestock. Blackberry also provides food and shelter for pest animals such as foxes and rabbits.



ST. JOHN'S WORT

St. John's wort is a serious noxious weed which causes photosensitisation in grazing animals. This results in skin damage and leads to weight loss, reduced productivity and sometimes death.



PRIVET

Privet species have been suspected of being poisonous and can be a serious health problem. When privet is in flower, it causes a lot of distress to people who suffer from asthma and hay fever.



ENGLISH BROOM

English broom contains cyctine, a toxic alkaloid, particularly in the flowers and seed. This can cause death through asphyxia. It is highly invasive with shrubs producing hundreds of pods with each pod producing up to 22 seeds.

"I have to say, one of the best things I ever did was to work with my local Weeds Officer. My weeds are now under control, the property looks terrific and I can now focus on production."

There are 4 main steps to undertake a successful weed management program:

1. PREVENTION

Prevention is the best and most cost effective form of weed control. Being weed aware will help you to quickly respond to new incursions and a weed prevention strategy for your property will reduce the likelihood of weeds establishing on your land.

2. CONTROL

There are several options available for the control of weeds including physical removal, vegetation management, herbicide application and biological control. Integrating and applying a range of options increases your chance of success.

3. REPLACEMENT

Replacing the weed with desirable vegetation is the only long-term solution for managing weeds. Providing strong competition with native plants, improved pastures or plantations makes it difficult for weeds to establish.

4. MAINTAINING YOUR PROPERTY

After control work and replacement activities have occurred there is still the potential for a weed to return through reinfestation or germination of the seed bank built up in the soil over time. For this reason it is essential to conduct regular inspections and follow-up weed control.

We're here to help you:

- Inspect and report on any noxious weeds on your land
- Provide advice on how to best control noxious weeds for your land use
- Assist you in preparing a Property Weed Management Plan
- Advise you on the use of chemicals (application rates, time of application, appropriate application methods)
- Advise on the suitability of biological control options
- Provide a pre-purchase inspection and report
- Provide a pre-purchase certificate regarding any weed control notices on land
- Aerial spraying of weeds.



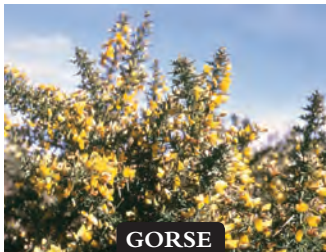
CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS

Chilean needle grass causes harm to livestock with its piercing seed heads that can downgrade skins and hides as well as contaminate fleeces. Grazing alone does not control this weed as it has the ability to produce seeds at the base of the plant.



NODDING THISTLE

Nodding thistle is an aggressive competitor of pastures with each flower head producing up to 20,000 viable seeds as soon as they start to turn pink. They form dense patches and, due to their spiny foliage, are not palatable to grazing stock.



GORSE

Gorse is a highly invasive weed with numerous sharp spines up to 3cm along the branches. These can act like a barrier preventing stock movement and reducing a property's available pasture – even goats won't eat it.



SWEET BRIAR

With its thorny branches, sweet briar can harbour pest animals such as rabbits, restrict vehicle access and can form a barrier, especially when it occurs in clumps or patches, for stock trying to access feed, shade and water.



AFRICAN BOXTHORN

African boxthorn has numerous sharp spines up to 3cm along the branches that acts like a barrier to prevent stock movement. New plants can grow from root cuttings and seeds can be distributed by birds, animals and vehicles.



PAMPAS GRASS

A long-lived perennial tussock with flower heads up to 4m high. Female plants produce 100,000 seeds per flower head each year. Plants can also grow from root segments, produce large amounts of flammable material and create dense infestations leading to bush fire hazards.