

Green Cestrum

What is it?

Green Cestrum is an introduced plant from South America.

Green Cestrum is extremely toxic to stock. Also note that when Green Cestrum is sprayed with a herbicide, it is possible for the plant to become more palatable to animals while retaining its toxicity. This means it is necessary to keep stock away until it is completely eradicated.

What does it look like?

It is a perennial shrub growing 2 – 2.5 metres in height. Leaves can be up to 7 cm long, and 10-15mm wide. Flowers are arranged in clusters at the end of the stems, trumpet to funnel shaped and yellow green to orange yellow in colour. Fruit is a green berry 5-8mm in diameter which turns black when ripe.

Distribution

Green Cestrum is widespread in the Hunter and Central Coast region. Introduced as a garden plant, it can now be found along river and creek banks, along fencelines, under trees and in vacant allotments. It is spread mainly by birds which feed on the ripe berries. Seed is unaffected by passing through them and is dropped in scat, hence infestations under trees and along fencelines.

Control Measures

Physical control:
Small seedlings can be removed by hand. Note: gloves should be worn when hand pulling any weeds to prevent possible poisoning.

Green Cestrum

Cestrum parqui

A Category W 3 weed.

Under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, the weed must be prevented from spreading, and numbers and distribution reduced.



Cut stump treatment:

Small to medium sized bushes can be controlled by cutting branches and stems above ground level, and treating with suitable herbicide, eg. *Glyphosate*, *Triclopyr+ Picloram*. Treatment should be made within minutes of the cutting operation, with herbicide applied by paintbrush or squeeze bottle.

Foliar spraying:

Medium to large bushes can be treated by the application of herbicides as a foliar spray. Ensure bushes are treated thoroughly, treating both leaves and stems.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2004). Users are reminded of the need to ensure that any product purchased for the control of Green Cestrum is registered for that purpose. The author cannot take responsibility for any changes, or modifications, that are made to product registration or requirements that may occur after January 2004.

© 2004. Compiled by Ken Bunn, Coordinator, Hunter and Central Coast Weed Management Program.

Produced by the Lower Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy (LHCCREMS).

Design by Carlena Payne (carlenadesigns@hotmail.com).