



**Liverpool
Plains**
Shire Council



**Local Land
Services**

North West Regional Best Practice Guide for: *Harrisia Cactus*

Botanical Name: *Harrisia martini* and *H. tortuosa*

Common Name: *Harrisia Cactus*

Priority Weeds Objective – Containment

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Harrisia Cactus: Is native to the Americas which was introduced to Australia as a garden plant. It has now become a serious problem in parts of Queensland and New South Wales. *Harrisia Cactus* is spread by seed. The plant can begin to produce seed by six months of age and from then on can continue to produce fruit all year round. The sharp spines are a hazard to humans and animals and it is hard to control because of its seed producing ability.

General Biosecurity Duty – Biosecurity Act 2015

A **general biosecurity duty** applies to all dealings (as defined) with this species. Any person who deals with this species who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk posed by the plant, a carrier or a dealing, has a duty to ensure the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.



Photo: Ian Schwartz

Regional Recommended Measure

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with GBD

An **Exclusion Zone** is established for all lands in the region, except the core infestation area comprising the Gwydir Shire Council and the Moree Plains Shire Council.

Whole of Region: Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land

Within exclusion zone:

Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant, A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant

Notify local control authority if found.

Within core infestation:

A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment, Land managers should reduce the impact of the plant on assets of high economic, environmental and/or social value.

The following legislative requirement also applies: Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017) A person must not import into the State or sell.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council Local Control Requirements

1. The land is kept free of the plant, and
2. Land managers will mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.

Penalty for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*

The maximum penalty is:

- in the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- in the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

Harrisia Cactus Control Calendar

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
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GROWTH CYCLES

SEEDS GERMINATE
SEGMENTS SET ROOTS ONTO BARE SOIL AFTER RAIN
FLOWER AND FRUIT SET
ACTIVE GROWTH

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INTERGRATED CONTROL TECHNIQUES AND ALTERNATIVES

PHYSICALLY REMOVE PLANTS AND DESTROY BY BURNING ANYTIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
HERBICIDE USE
RELEASE BIOAGENTS
FOLLOW UP ANY REGROWTH AS IT APPEARS AND DESTROY BY PHYSICAL REMOVAL OR SPRAY WITH HERBICIDES

Biological Control: A mealybug (*Hypogeococcus festerianus*) is established on *Harrisia Cactus* in NSW and provides a significant level of control.

Registered Herbicide Application Rates:

Please refer to the NSW DPI Website NSW WeedWise. <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au> for current up to date permits and Registered Chemicals. Or to NSW Weed Control Handbook 2018 7th Edition for Chemical Options.

Critical Comments:

- Apply when plants are actively growing.
- Consult your LCA Biosecurity Officer- Weeds for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and SDS of respective herbicides.

NOTE:

- (a) All Control Techniques involving herbicide use, must comply with the directions on the herbicide label or the conditions set out in a current permit to use a nominated herbicide.
- (b) All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017.
- (c) All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
- (d) Growth patterns and the changes to optimum treatment times will vary with seasonal conditions due to air temperature changes that may coincide with soil and moisture availability.

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by the North West Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.

Linkage to Plans/Strategies

- North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018- 2021
- *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017

References

- NSW DPI Website /Weedwise/ NSW Weed Control Handbook 7th Edition.

For further information:

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 Authorised Officers –Weeds.
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