

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022



Weed Control Management Plan for: Alligator Weed

Botanical Name: Alternanthera philoxeroides

Common Names: Alligator Weed

Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective – PREVENTION (Whole of Region)

This weed is not currently found in the region, poses a significant biosecurity risk and prevention of the biosecurity risk posed by this weed is a reasonably practicable objective.

General Biosecurity Duty

All plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Regional Recommended Measure:

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with GBD

- The plant should be eradicated from the land and the land kept free of the plant.
- Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land.
- The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment.
- Notify local control authority if found.



Alligator weed is considered one of the world's worst weeds because it impacts on both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Overseas experience indicates that its potential impacts in Australia could be devastating.

It has extremely vigorous growth and great tolerance of normal control measures, which makes it a major threat to wetlands, rivers and irrigation systems.

Alligator weed disrupts the aquatic environment by blanketing the surface and impeding the penetration of light. Such blanketing can also impede gaseous exchange (sometimes leading to anaerobic conditions) which adversely affects aquatic flora and fauna. It also competes with and displaces native flora along river and creek banks and in wetlands.

Alligator weed does not produce viable seed in Australia. Reproduction is entirely vegetative with new plants able to occur at any stem or root node. Stems break up naturally or with disturbance, creating many fragments capable of forming new plants.

A warm growing season is preferred and generally occurs between November and May, with maximum growth and reproduction from stem nodes in mid-summer. Growth generally slows or ceases during cooler months.

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.

Linkage to Plans/Strategies

- Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017



Download the weedwise app for detailed information on priority weeds in our area.

For Further Information:

New England Weeds Authority

129 Rusden St

Armidale NSW 2350

PH: (02) 6770 3602 www.newa.com.au

or

NSW DPI Weedwise: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

or

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services:

<https://northerntablelands.lis.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity>

References

- *NSW DPI Website /Weedwise/ Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 6th Edition.*

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by the Northern Tablelands 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 specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.