

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022



Local Land Services
Northern Tablelands

Weed Control Management Plan: Annual Ragweed

Botanical Name: *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* Common Names: Annual Ragweed

Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective – **ASSET PROTECTION** (Whole of Region)

This weed is widely distributed in some areas of the region. Their spread must be minimised to protect priority sites.

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

- Land managers should prevent spread from their land, where feasible.
- 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.
- **Mandatory Measure** (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017)

A person must not import into the State or sell.

New England Weeds Authority Local Control Requirements

Owners/Occupiers of land are required to actively control Annual Ragweed, and as a minimum, to continuously inhibit the plants ability to spread, and its numbers and distribution must be reduced.



Photo: NSW DPI

Annual ragweed (also called ambrosia, horseweed or asthma plant) is a fast-growing plant introduced from North America. It can invade and suppress weak and overgrazed pastures, reducing productivity. The pollen of this plant can cause health problems such as hay fever and can aggravate asthma.

Infestations can be minimised by maintaining healthy, dense pastures.

Two biological control agents have been released for annual ragweed in New South Wales. A moth (*Epiblema strenuana*) is established and has a reasonable impact on annual ragweed. A beetle (*Zygogramma bicolorata*) is established and widespread, and has a significant impact at some sites.

Prevention of annual ragweed is more effective than control. Infestations can be minimised by maintaining healthy, dense pastures that suppress ragweed germination and growth. Where feasible, plants can be pulled by hand; however, if anyone is prone to allergies, contact with flowering plants and pollen should be avoided.

For heavy infestations, opportunistic burning can be a useful tool in controlling annual ragweed if paddocks have not been overgrazed. Burning needs to be done when adequate soil moisture will allow good grass cover to grow back. Follow-up herbicide treatment is essential.

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.

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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.

Registered herbicide application rates for: Annual Ragweed

Ambrosia artemisiifolia Common Names: Annual Ragweed

Control Calendar

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
HERBICIDE OPTIMAL										HERBICIDE OPTIMAL	

Registered Herbicide Application Rates:

Non crop situations: Dicamba 500 g/L (e.g. Kamba 500) 8.8 L/ha 600 mL/100 L 130 mL/15 L/100 m² Boom spray Spot spray Knapsack (consult label)

Metsulfuron methyl 600g/L, 5 g/100 L water + wetter, Hand gun Spray to thoroughly wet all foliage but not to cause runoff

Critical Comments:

- Consult your weeds officer for application tips
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and MSDS of respective herbicides.

NOTE:

- 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.
- All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017.
- All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
- 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.

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