

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022

Weed Control Management Plan: Fireweed

Botanical Name *Senecio madagascariensis* Common Names: Fireweed



Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective –SPECIES OF CONCERN (Whole of Region)

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

All of NSW: 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

- All of NSW: Prohibition on dealings **Must not be imported into the State or sold**
- 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.



Fireweed

Fireweed can take over pastures and can cause grazing animals to get sick or die. Fireweed contains chemicals called pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Livestock that eat it get liver damage. The damage is irreversible and gets worse the more fireweed an animal eats. Hay, silage or grain contaminated with fireweed plants or seeds can poison livestock. Identifying fireweed poisoning is tricky. Other things like mineral deficiencies or internal parasites can cause similar symptoms. If you think you have affected animals contact your vet. Fireweed plants are 10–60 cm tall. Most fireweed is low growing, with many branches. You can see most stages of the plant (seedlings to flowering) at almost all times of the year. Flushes of seedlings appear after rain in warm weather.

Leaves are: bright green, fleshy and narrow, 2–7 cm long and 3–10 mm wide, staggered (not opposite each other) on the stems, serrated, smooth or lobed on the edges., clasped around the stem when large.

Flowers are: small, yellow and daisy-like, 1–2 cm across, in clusters at the ends of branches, commonly with 13 petals per flower, emerging from a small cup of modified leaves called bracts., usually with 21 bracts forming the cup structure., more abundant on some plants than others (0-200 per plant).

Seeds are small and light, 1–3 mm long, cylindrical in shape, downy on the surface, attached to fine, white feathery hairs that aid in dispersal by wind.

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.lls.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.