

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands

Weed Control Management Plan for: Nodding Thistle

Botanical Name: *Carduus nutans subsp. scoparius*

Common Names: Nodding Thistle

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

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

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.
- 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.
- **Mandatory Measure** (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017)- A person must not import into the State or sell.



Nodding thistle has proven to be an aggressive competitor of pastures. It occurs in dense patches and is not readily grazed by most stock because of its spiny foliage. Its presence also discourages animals from grazing other neighbouring pasture plants and it can affect the movement of stock. It is difficult to control because of its long flowering season, prolific seed production, the longevity of its seed bank, a variable life cycle, and the ability to germinate at any time of the year provided there is moisture available.

Nodding thistle can only reproduce by seed, with most falling close to the parent.

Long distance dispersal of viable seed by wind can occur, but is rare because the pappus detaches easily from the seed leaving it close to the source. Seed can also be dispersed in mud, agricultural seed and fodder and by water, vehicles, machinery and livestock.

Due to the longevity of the seed bank and varying life cycles in any plant population, nodding thistle requires a management plan persisting over a number of years. A plan should integrate all available methods of control including physical removal, cropping, perennial pasture management, grazing management, herbicide application, biological control, farm hygiene and regular surveillance.

Because the plant only reproduces from seed, the control effort should be directed at preventing seed production.

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.