

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022

Weed Control Management Plan: Cats claw creeper

Botanical Name *Dolichandra unguis-cati* Common Name: Cats claw creeper



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands

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.



Cat's claw creeper is a woody vine that invades forests and riparian zones, killing trees and understorey plants. It is a Weed of National Significance

Cat's claw creeper was introduced to Australia as a garden plant, and has escaped to become a major weed of native forests and riparian areas in eastern Australia. Its climbing woody stems (lianas) cling to tree trunks, enabling it to grow into the forest canopy. In native rainforests it can overtop and kill mature trees, opening up the canopy for light-loving weeds. Cat's claw creeper competes with native plants by forming a dense above-ground mat and numerous underground reproductive tubers. It produces abundant seeds that are dispersed by wind and water.

Cat's claw creeper has numerous stems, generally up to 15 cm thick, which climb vertically and also creep along the ground and over other vegetation.

The leaves are opposite and compound, with a 1–2 cm long stalk (petiole). Each leaf has a basal pair of lance-shaped leaflets 2–7 cm long x 1–3 cm wide. The third leaflet is modified into a three-pronged tendril. Tendrils are 10–15 mm long with stiff tips that form hooks (like cat's claws) that aid in climbing.

Flowers are large, yellow and trumpet shaped 4–8 cm long with lobes (sections of the petal) to 2 cm long. The flowers are produced in spring.

Its seedpods are long and narrow, 15–45 cm long and 8–12 mm wide. Capsules contain numerous two-winged seeds that are 2–4 cm long.

Underground roots are much branched and produce tubers at intervals along their length. Tubers can be up to 40 cm long and each one can produce multiple stems.

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:

Tenterfield Shire council
247 Rouse St Tenterfield
NSW 2372

PH: (02) 6736 6000 www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.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.