

**Velvety Tree Pear:** Velvety tree pear, native of central Mexico, can grow to 8 meters high. The plant has a distinctive velvety covering on segments. The plant has yellow flowers and the fruit is red when ripe. Velvety tree pear can be controlled biologically using cochineal, Dactylopius tomentosus. Felling of large plants once cochineal is established often results in more rapid control compared with unfelled plants. The cactoblastis moth, Cactoblastis cactorum, causes little damage to large plants but causes significant damage to small plants and seedlings.

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Photo: Bruce Auld

**North West Regional Best Practice Guide for:** Velvety Tree Pear

**Botanical Name:** *Opuntia tomentosa*

**Common Name:** Velvety Tree Pear

**Priority Weeds Objective** – **Key Emerging:** Prevent the establishment of new invasive species in the North West Local Land Services Region.

**General Biosecurity Duty – Biosecurity Act 2015** *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.*

**Liverpool Plains Shire Council Local Control Requirements**

1. Reduce the size and density of infested area by physical, mechanical and or chemical control methods, and
2. Eliminate or minimise the risk of spread onto neighbouring lands.

**Regional Recommended Measure**

Manage those identified as Key Emerging at the controllable level before they cross the threshold where control of spread is no longer an option.

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

##### 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.

**Velvety Tree Pear Control Calendar**

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| **JAN** | **FEB** | **MARCH** | **APRIL** | **MAY** | **JUNE** | **JULY** | **AUG** | **SEPT** | **OCT** | **NOV** | **DEC** |

 **GROWTH CYCLES**

|  |  |  |
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| **SEEDS GERMINATE** |  | **SEEDS GERMINATE** |
| **SEGMENTS SET ROOTS ONTO BARE SOIL AFTER RAIN** | **SEGMENTS SET ROOTS ONTO BARE SOIL AFTER RAIN** |
| **FLOWER AND FRUIT SET** |  | **FLOWER AND FRUIT SET** |
| **ACTIVE GROWTH** |  | **ACTIVE GOWTH** |

 **INTERGRATED CONTROL TECHNIQUES AND ALTERNATIVES**

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| **PHYSICALLY REMOVE PLANTS AND DESTROY BY BURNING ANYTIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR** |
| **HERBICIDE USE** |  | **HERBICIDE USE** |
| **RELEASE BIOAGENTS** |
| **FOLLOW UP ANY REGROWTH AS IT APPEARS AND DESTROY BY PHYSICAL REMOVAL OR SPRAY WITH HERBICIDES** |

**Biological Control:** Velvety Tree Pear can be controlled biologically using cochineal, *Dactylopius tomentosus.* Felling of large plants once cochineal is established often results in more rapid control compared with unfelled plants. The cactoblastis moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum,* causes little damage to large plants but causes significant damage to small plants and seedlings.

**Registered Herbicide Application Rates:**

Please refer to theNSW DPI Website NSW WeedWise.<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au> for current up to date permits and Registered Chemicals.

Or to NSW Weed Control Handbook 2018 7th Edition for Chemical Options.

**Critical Comments:**

* Apply when plants are actively growing.
* Consult your LCA Biosecurity Officer- Weeds for application tips
* Always read and follow the Label instructions and SDS of respective herbicides.

**NOTE:**

1. 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.
2. All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017.
3. All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
4. 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.

**Disclaimer:**

This document has been prepared by the North West 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 advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.

**Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L** (Access™ )
Rate: 1.0 L per 60 L of diesel
Comments: Foliar application. **Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L** (Access™ )
Rate: 1.0 L per 60 L of diesel
Comments: Foliar application.

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| **Linkage to Plans/Strategies*** North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022
* NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
* NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
* NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018- 2021
* *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017

**References*** *NSW DPI Website /WeedWise/ NSW Weed Control Handbook 2018 7th Edition.*
 | **For Further Information contact:**Liverpool Plains Shire Council’sAuthorised Officers –Weeds.60 Station StreetQuirindi NSW 2343PH: (02)67461755 |

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