



**Liverpool  
Plains**  
Shire Council



**Local Land  
Services**

## 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.

**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.



Photo: Bruce Auld

### **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.*

### **Regional Recommended Measure**

#### **Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty**

**Whole of region:** Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land, Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land, A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment, Land managers should reduce the impact of the plant on assets of high economic, environmental and/or social value.

#### **The following legislative requirement also applies:**

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

### **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.

### **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

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
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#### GROWTH CYCLES

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

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#### INTERGRATED CONTROL TECHNIQUES AND ALTERNATIVES

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 the NSW 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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

**Linkage to Plans/Strategies**

- North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027
- 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 7<sup>th</sup> Edition.*

**For Further Information contact:**

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