

Control and Management

As with most invasive species, the early detection and management is crucial in the control of Bathurst burr.

Cultivation of seedling plants is effective in controlling infestations. Manual chipping is effective but only economical for small isolated infestations. Treatments should be applied prior to seed pod forming to prevent viable seeds subsequently reinfesting treated areas.

The key steps to controlling Bathurst burr are:

- **Learn** to identify Bathurst burr, or seek assistance in identification
- Seek assistance to **Plan** control methods
- **Implement** the control methods as planned and monitor for regeneration.



Image: Bathurst burr

Herbicide Options

2,4-D amine 625 g/L (Various products)
Rate: 100 mL 2,4-D amine per 150 L of water **Spot spray** application.

Comments: Apply to seedling and young plants.

MCPA 340 g/L + Dicamba 80 g/L (Kamba M)
Rate: 270 mL per 100L **Spot spray** application or 2.8-4.0 L/Ha **Boom spray** application.

Comments: Spray young actively growing plants in Spring and early Summer

Whenever using herbicides ALWAYS CHECK THE LABEL for applicable withholding periods.

Acknowledgements

Much of this information was sourced from NSW Weedwise (<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds>)

yass valley council
the country the people



Bathurst burr
Xanthium spinosum



Image: Mature Bathurst burr

Why is Bathurst burr a weed?

Bathurst burr is a common agricultural weed in Australia, effecting wool, pastoral and cropping industries.

It causes serious economic losses when left unchecked. The burrs readily adhere to fleeces requiring heavy skirting and reduced wool yield. The woody stems and long thorns form an impenetrable barrier restricting stock movements and grazing potential.

Mature plants are woody with leathery leaves that are not palatable to stock with thorns growing from the leaf base. Seedling plants are poisonous and if eaten can cause poisoning in stock.

Vigorous seedling growth allows Bathurst burr to quickly out compete summer crops and downgrading grain/hay yields.

What does it look like?

Bathurst burr is a summer growing erect, multi branched woody weed. It has a compact shrub like appearance on maturity growing to 100 cm high.

The leaves are dark green and waxy on the surface with prominent white veins. The leaves have three distinct lobes with the central lobe more elongated, up to 7 cm. The under leaf is covered in fine hairs giving a lighter green appearance.

Stiff, yellowish 3-pronged spines form at the leaf base and the apex of each branch.

The flowers are small green non-descript clusters that develop into numerous straw coloured burrs. Each burr grows up to 1.5 cm long. They are cigar shaped and covered in numerous hooked spines.



Image: Bathurst burr leaf

How does it spread

Bathurst burr spreads entirely through seed distribution. The spiny burr pods readily adhere to fleece and coats of pest animal such as rabbits and foxes. Many infestations tend to appear in stock camps and shaded areas where stock rest.

The small seeds will contaminate grain and fodder, germinating in subsequent crops or feed out areas.



Image: Bathurst burr with flowers, burrs and spines

The tough seed pod protects seeds from cultivation and slashing. Mechanical control of mature plants will only further spread the infestation.

Mature green plants easily break of branches when slashed or cultivated and will rapidly reshoot.