

Management strategies

How to treat

Slashing, physical removal and chaining will aid control if carried out between mid-February and mid-March. However, with its huge seed production and ability to establish on bare or infertile ground, Sifton bush has spread into areas that are stressed by over-grazing or drought, and can therefore thrive to replace useful pastures.

1. Treating small patches or limited infestations

Where small infestations are detected it is imperative to try to remove the weed as quickly as possible as the seedlings can germinate all year round. The easiest way to remove a small infested patch would be to pull the weed out by hand, making sure to try to keep the soil disturbance as minimal as possible. Best done after rainfall or when the ground is moist.

2. Treating more extensive infestations

For more extensive infestations use Grazon Extra as a foliar spray at a mix rate of 500 mL of Grazon Extra per 100 L of water (50 mL per 10 L of water). Ensure you spray the entire leaf area of the plant, with thorough coverage of the crown (where the stems meet) all the way to the tips.

For best results, ensure you treat when Sifton bush is actively growing. This will ensure maximum uptake of the chemical into the root system. Always consult the label for directions.

3. Biological control

Another way to control Sifton bush is by biological control. The naturally occurring scale insects *Austrotachardia* sp. and *Paratachardina* sp. are known to have killed small patches of the weed. The young, known as crawlers, are the only form that can travel short distances so landowners need to distribute the insects for best results.

Distributing biological control agents:

1. Find a plant that is being attacked by *Austrotachardia* sp. and/or *Paratachardina* sp.
2. Cut sections about 7–10 cm in length; these must contain a good population of adult females.
3. Tie these cuttings across two or more branches using twist ties.
4. Once crawlers have moved, remove and burn cuttings to control predators or parasitoids.

Minimise the impact of Sifton bush

The best way to minimise the impact of Sifton bush is to keep native pastures in their most competitive state. Regulating the amount of grazing in areas so as not to overgraze can do this. Removing trees or disturbing soils can create ideal conditions for sifton bush to gain traction in a region.

Treatment tips

- The effectiveness of slashing is limited to flat or gently sloping land that has a limited amount of surface rock.
- Avoid infestations by maintaining native pastures.

Refer to the Woody Weed app for further details.



Sifton bush

(*Cassinia arcuata*)



Grazon[®] Extra
HERBICIDE



Sifton bush (*Cassinia arcuata*)

Description

Sifton bush, also known as the 'Chinese shrub' is a perennial shrub native to Australia. It has one main stem with multiple smaller stems branching off this. It typically grows between 1 and 2 m tall but has been known to grow to 3 m. Seedlings are quite erect and resemble tiny pine trees.

Leaves produced on the Sifton bush are dark green, about 0.4–1.5 mm long and round at the ends. The leaves are attached to a dark grey-

brown stem. Sifton bush produces small yellow flower buds from November to April. Some 2000 million to 4000 million seeds can be produced by a single bush depending on density of plants. The seeds are light and wind can distribute them over large areas.

It is invasive in pasture and on roadsides, especially in shallow, infertile acid soils. Sifton bush proliferates following clearing for farming and is favoured by over-grazing.

Timing

Sifton Bush is controlled by foliar application and the plants need to be actively growing for optimal effect.

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	⚙	✗	✗

KEY:

- ✓ Best time to spray/treat
- ⚙ Can spray/treat if conditions are suitable
- ✗ Do not spray/treat

Herbicides for control of Sifton bush

Product*	Method of application	Rate†	State
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	500 mL/100 L of water + surfactant	All

Note: Preferred product option in bold. † Consult label for details of growth stage and use, especially where range of rates is given.



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