

Management strategies

How to treat

Prickly acacia is a weed of national significance.

1. Treating isolated patches and limited infestations

Preventing the problem is easier than curing it. Clean up the least infested paddocks and/or seeding trees first. Basal bark application is an appropriate method to tackle isolated or limited infestations of prickly acacia.

Foliar spraying with Starane Advanced is appropriate for dense, isolated seedling infestations.

2. Treating extensive infestations

Treat dense infestations with clear fence lines between clean and infested paddocks. Create a coordinated management strategy by mapping prickly acacia areas on your property before commencing treatment. Follow-up treatment will



For best results

Use Starane Advanced for seedling and young plants up to 2 m tall at the rate of 450 mL/100 L of water. For best results add Uptake Spraying Oil.

Consult Tropical Weeds Research Centre, Charters Towers, for specific advice on application.

When treating as a basal bark application (plants with stems up to 5 cm basal diameter), use Access at 1 L/60 L of diesel or Biosafe.

Treatment tips

As trees along bore drains are the main seed producers, try to eliminate all prickly acacia along bore drains and consider replacing open bore drains with piped water.

Do not let cattle or sheep graze where mature pods are available (pods ripen from October onwards).

A large percentage (43%) of undigested seed passes through cattle so use strategic fencing to contain prickly acacia.



Prickly acacia

(*Vachellia nilotica*)



Starane[®]
Advanced
HERBICIDE



Prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*)

Description

Prickly acacia is a thorny shrub or small tree growing from 4–5 m to occasionally 10 m tall. The plants are distinct with fern-like leaves, a pair of stout thorns (1–5 cm long) and pods.

Young shrubs form dense thorny thickets and mature plants are usually single stemmed with spreading branches that have lost their thorns.

The bark on saplings has a tinge of orange and/or green. Older trees have dark, rough bark.

The ball-shaped flowers are golden-yellow and about 1 cm across. The flowers grow in a group of two to six on a stem. The flat pods are 10–15 cm in length and turn grey when ripe.



Timing

Treatment should only be carried out when plants are actively growing. Do not treat during hot, dry summer periods.

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙	✗	✗	✗
Access® Herbicide	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙	⚙	⚙

KEY:

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

Herbicides for control of prickly acacia

Product [#]	Method of application	Rate [†]	State
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	Basal bark and Cut stump	900 mL/100 L of diesel distillate	All
Access® Herbicide	Basal bark and Cut stump	1:60 with diesel or Biosafe§	All
Garlon® 600 Herbicide	Basal bark and Cut stump	1:120 with diesel distillate	All
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	Foliar spray	450 mL/100 L water + Uptake®	All
Vigilant® II Herbicide	Cut stump	Apply neat: 3–5 mm layer	All

[#] Note: Preferred product option in bold. [†] Consult label for details of growth stage and use, especially where range of rates is given. § Biosafe – trademark used under licence, Victorian Chemical Co Pty Ltd.

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