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 always be necessary.

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 1L/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)

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.

Herbicides for control of prickly acacia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Method of application</th>
<th>Rate†</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starane® Advanced Herbicide</td>
<td>Basal bark and Cut stump</td>
<td>900 mL/100 L of diesel distillate</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access® Herbicide</td>
<td>Basal bark and Cut stump</td>
<td>160 with diesel or Biosafe§</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlon® 600 Herbicide</td>
<td>Basal bark and Cut stump</td>
<td>1:120 with diesel distillate</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starane® Advanced Herbicide</td>
<td>Foliar spray</td>
<td>450 mL/100 L water + Uptake§</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vigilant® II Herbicide</td>
<td>Cut stump</td>
<td>Apply neat: 3–5 mm layer</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† State
- **Best time to spray/treat**
- **Can spray/treat if conditions are suitable**
- **Do not spray/treat**

# 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.