

# Management strategies

## How to treat

### African boxthorn is a weed of national significance.

African boxthorn often forms dense shrubs and it will shoot readily from broken roots. It is extremely invasive and can seriously reduce stock-carrying capacity. The sharp thorns pose a threat to the eyes of grazing animals, especially during dry times when animals chase feed under the plants.

#### 1. Treating isolated patches and limited infestations

African boxthorn can be an aggressive invader of pasture. Treating weed infestations when they are small should be encouraged to prevent large, impenetrable thickets occurring. Foliar spraying with herbicides provides the most effective control of small isolated areas.

#### 2. Treating extensive infestations or infestations under trees

Physical removal by means of dozer blades, frontmounted blade ploughs (e.g. Ellrott plough) or chains can be an effective method of removal. As much as possible of the root system should be removed because regrowth often occurs from root pieces remaining in the soil. Physically removing the boxthorn, then burning the clumps will be beneficial to prevent a haven for rabbits. Repeated cultivation will control seedlings and small regrowth as well as foliar spraying with herbicides or applying herbicide granules.

## For best results

In all situations, use Access at 1 L/60 L of diesel or Biosafe as a basal bark application to obtain optimum results. Do not treat during periods of drought stress or when plants are not actively growing. In situations where foliar application is used, always treat actively growing plants. For best results, use Grazon Extra at 500 mL/100 L of water. Do not treat when leaves drop from the plant when spraying.

## Treatment tips

When treating bushes under eucalypt trees, apply a non-residual herbicide like glyphosate as a foliar application or use Access as a basal bark treatment.

When using Access as a basal bark application, ensure there is a curved end on the wand near the orifice. This will allow you to treat both sides of each stem from the one position near the bush by changing the angle of the nozzle and also avoid potential scratches from the thorns on the plant.



# African boxthorn

(*Lycium ferocissimum*)



**Access<sup>®</sup>**  
HERBICIDE



# African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)

## Description

African boxthorn is a woody shrub that can grow up to 6 m tall. Its rigid branches are leafy and end in a hard, sharp spine reaching up to 150 mm long. It has globe- to egg-shaped berries that are orange-red when ripe with up to 70 seeds. Flowers appear singly or in pairs at the leaf-stem

junction. They are approximately 12 mm in diameter with five waxy white petals, each with a purplish base. The main flowering period is during summer but flowering and seed production may occur throughout the year.

## Timing

African boxthorn can be controlled with foliar applied herbicides from February to May. Treatment should only be carried out when plants are actively growing with no leaf fall. Do not treat during hot, dry summer periods.

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Access® Herbicide	🌀	🌀	🌀	🌀	🌀	✅	✅	✅	🌀	🌀	🌀	🌀
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	❌	❌	❌	❌	❌	🌀	🌀	✅	✅	🌀	🌀	🌀

### KEY:

- ✅ Best time to spray/treat
- 🌀 Can spray/treat if conditions are suitable
- ❌ Do not spray/treat

## Herbicides for control of African boxthorn

Product*	Method of application	Rate†	State
<b>Access® Herbicide</b>	Basal bark and Cut stump	1:60 with diesel or Biosafe§	All
Garlon® 600 Herbicide	Basal bark and Cut stump	1:30 with diesel distillate	All
Garlon® 600 Herbicide	Foliar spray	170 mL/100 L of water	Tas
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	500 mL/100 L of water	All
Vigilant® II Herbicide	Cut stump	Apply neat: 3–5 mm layer	All
Colex-D® Herbicide	Cut stump	Undiluted	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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