

Noxious Weed Harrisia Cactus



Harrisia cactus (*Harrisia species*) was introduced to Australia from America

Class 4 - Locally Controlled Weed

The growth of the plant must be managed in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to spread and the plant must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

Description

Spiny perennial plant with fleshy-jointed stems that form tangled mats about 0.5m tall.

Stems are ribbed lengthwise, the ribs have low, thick, triangular humps at regular intervals, the humps have cushions of grey felty hairs, 3-5 short spines lying flat, and 1-3 erect, stiff, sharp spines 2.5-3cm long.

Flowers are large, funnel-shaped, pink with tinge of white, Fruit is round, 4-5cm across, bright red, with scattered bumps, hairs and spines, seeds are small,



Habitat

Occurs in brigalow and associated softwood country. Infestations also found in eucalypt and pine forests.

Tolerates shade and reaches maximum development in shade and shelter of brigalow scrub, though established infestations can persist once scrub is pulled. Impact & Toxicity

Forms dense infestations that choke out other pasture species when left unchecked. Spines interfere with stock mustering and movement, and cause injuries and lameness.

Impact & Toxicity

Forms dense infestations that choke out other pasture species when left unchecked. Spines interfere with stock mustering and movement, and cause injuries and lameness.