

Noogoora Bur

Xanthium strumarium

Control of Noogoora bur is funded, and carried out, by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. We would like members of the public to let us know of any possible sightings of this plant.

Description

A fast growing summer annual.

Grows as a single stemmed plant (eg. amongst maize) or bushy plant (in the open) up to 2m tall.

Leaves: Alternate, large with 3-5 lobes and coarsely toothed (similar to grape), dark green above, paler below, hairy, with prominent purplish veins.

Stems: Rough to the touch, streaked with purple.

Flowers: Are insignificant.

Fruit: Are egg shaped burs, 10-25mm long covered in hooked spines with 2 stout straight spines at the tip. In clusters on the stems and at tips of branches. Each bur contains 2 seeds and a plant may produce 10,000 seeds.

Origin

North and central America.

Probably arrived in NZ as contaminant of maize seed.

Where is it found?

Usually on arable land, often in maize paddocks but will also colonise pastoral land.

Currently (2014) in the Bay of Plenty, Noogoora bur is found at a number of known sites near Te Puke and Pāpāmoa, often associated with maize growing. It is being actively controlled at all known sites.

How does it spread?

By seed contained in the burs. Plants seed prolifically. Burs are easily spread attached to animals and clothing and in agricultural machinery. They also float and can be spread by water. Spreads rapidly once established.

Why is it a problem?

- Toxic to stock and can cause dermatitis in animals and humans.
- Devalues wool when burs attach to sheep.
- May become established on stream margins and suppress native vegetation.
- Seed may remain dormant in the soil for many years.

Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Noogoora bur is an Exclusion and Eradication Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread Noogoora bur in the Bay of Plenty.

Control of Noogoora bur is funded, and carried out, by Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Machinery or equipment must be cleaned prior to leaving a site contaminated with Noogoora bur.



Mature Noogoora bur.

How do I get rid of it?

Please don't try, it is very difficult!

If you think you have found this plant, please let us know.

Staff will always follow up possible finds of this plant and if confirmed we will work with you to control it.

Call us on 0800 STOP PESTS (0800 780 773).

Or email us at info@boprc.govt.nz



ERADICATION/EXCLUSION PEST



Mature Noogoora bur. Note the distinctive burs, red stems and maple shaped leaves



Noogoora bur growing amongst maize



Seedling Noogoora bur amongst maize



Noogoora bur seedlings outgrowing other weed seedlings



Small Noogoora bur plants in young maize



Small Noogoora bur amongst grasses