

Good Grief, I've Got Gorse

Where gorse grows



Gorse is not native to Australia. This widespread, troublesome weed has made itself at home in paddocks, bushland, and along rocky gullies and riverbanks in most States and Territories.

Although widespread in Tasmania, gorse still hasn't reached its full potential to infest much more of the State. We all need to work to contain the problem so it doesn't become even more widespread than it already is!

Gorse, if you've got it – control it!

Control and manage gorse, otherwise it may get out of hand and take over your property.

Nip the problem in the bud early, or you'll pay more in terms of:

- higher control costs;
- greater control effort;
- increased fire hazard;
- increasingly degraded natural bushland;
- less productive land; and
- reduced land values.

Weed Laws in Tasmania

Gorse is a declared weed in Tasmania under the *Weed Management Act 1999*. The draft statutory Weed Management Plan for gorse details how the Act applies. In order to comply with the law, property owners should find out whether their land occurs in a Zone A or Zone B municipality.

In Zone A municipalities, eradication of gorse is the objective, and landowners are required to plan for the removal of **all** gorse from their properties.

In Zone B municipalities, containment is the objective. This means property owners must prevent the spread of gorse from their properties by, for example, maintaining a 10 metre gorse-free buffer strip along property boundaries where these border areas without gorse, or areas where gorse is being actively controlled. Gorse control along waterways, roads and other transport corridors is also important in minimising the spread of gorse.

Call 1300 368 550 to obtain a copy of the statutory weed management plan for gorse or to speak to a Regional Weed Management Officer about your legal obligations as a landowner in respect of gorse.

Taking control of your gorse problem



Don't despair, gorse can be controlled, but it takes:

- planning
- ongoing commitment
- time

Before starting, think about the wider environmental community.

- Is the gorse providing habitat for native species? In some areas, gorse is important shelter for small native mammals and birds.
- Is the gorse an important shelter for stock?
- Are the control methods likely to impact upon your neighbours? Spraying of herbicides, for example, may affect nearby organic enterprises.
- What will replace the gorse once it has been eradicated? Typically, re-sowing or re-vegetating with native plants is required.
- Have the neighbours been informed about plans to control gorse along property boundaries? You may save time and money working together with them.



Control Methods for Small Landholders

Deal with the outliers first then work your way into the core infestation. By taking this approach you can contain the problem by stopping further spread and begin working on plants that are easier to control. Use the most appropriate (or a combination) of the following methods:

- Cut & paint
- Herbicide spray
- Handpulling for smaller plants (Remember, some snapped tap roots will re-grow)
- Grazing new growth with goats or sheep
- Biological agents

Be Careful not to Spread the Seeds

Take care if excavating the site, as disturbing the soil can spread seeds. Vehicle tyres, footwear, vehicle tracks and animal fur can also spread seed. Gorse seeds remain viable for 20+ years.



Mowing/slashing or burning can be used to reduce the total mass and may be appropriate in the right situation. However, follow-up treatment is always needed.

Follow-up, Follow-up

Gorse control is ongoing

Check for re-growth and remove

Further information:

Weeds of National Significance
Greening Australia (Tasmania)
11 Albuera Street
Battery Point TAS 7004

general@tas.greeningaustralia.org.au

www.greeningaustralia.org.au

Regional Weed Management Officers
Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment
Phone 1300 368 550

www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/pests



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