

Hunter Region Priority Weed

Groundsel bush

1.5 million seeds per plant per annum



Photo: H Rose

Management guide



In NSW, weeds are regulated by the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*. All land managers have a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) to contain the spread of weeds.

"General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable)."

The Regional priority for Groundsel bush is to contain the weed's occurrence within the core areas. Outside these core areas is designated as the Biosecurity Zone, where the priority is eradication, and the Local Control Authority should be notified of any outbreaks. Core infestations are known within Newcastle, MidCoast and Lake Macquarie local government areas.

For further information contact your local Weeds Officer via [Hunter Regional Weeds](#) or visit [NSW WeedWise](#).

Impacts

Groundsel bush is a serious weed in coastal parts of the Hunter Region.

- A perennial shrub which rapidly colonises areas to form thick stands.
- Found in coastal swamps, saltmarsh, freshwater wetlands and forests.
- Impacts coastal ecological communities. Has significant potential to impact on threatened shorebirds and migratory waders.
- Also spreads to cleared and overgrazed land, degraded pastures, neglected horticultural crops.
- Competes with horticultural crops.
- Reduces carrying capacity and productivity of agricultural land. Thick stands inhibit movement of stock.

- Expected to spread, further within the region.
- Suspected to be toxic to sheep, cattle and chickens. If stock do graze it, they can rapidly lose condition.
- Seeds prolifically, each female plant can produce over 1.5 million seeds annually.
- Seed dispersed by wind and water. In windy conditions can travel long distances.
- Prefers areas with high rainfall and humidity.
- Tolerates low nitrogen for long periods.
- Does not tolerate low phosphorus.
- Tolerant of shade, waterlogging, acid soils, salinity, salt spray, heavy frost, range of soil types and pH.
- Suspected to cause hayfever.

Management

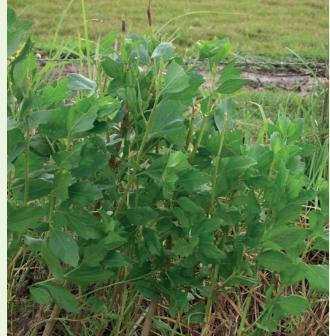
- Plants outside the core area of Newcastle, MidCoast and Lake Macquarie local government areas should be eradicated from the land and the land kept free of the plant. In the core areas land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds entering their land.
- Establish competitive pasture after mechanical control to outcompete seedling regrowth.
- Mechanical. Hand pull small plants and seedlings, ensure all roots removed.
- Cultivation of young stands before flowering.
- Slashing, especially young plants. Monitor and control

- regrowth before maturity. Not suitable in all situations.
- Improve established pastures. Avoid overgrazing.
- Chemical. Cut-stump, basal bark and foliar spraying can all be effective methods. Follow-up will be necessary.
- Monitor after any control method for regrowth. Treat regrowth before flowering to eliminate seed set.
- Readily invades forests after bushfires and logging. Monitor for ongoing control during re-establishment of understorey to provide competition.

Identification



A mature female groundsel bush in flower. Photo: Greg Egan



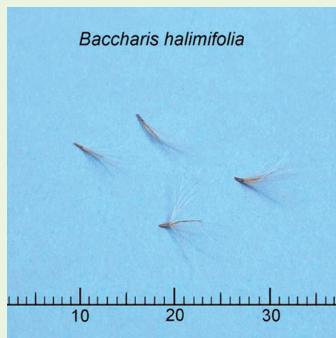
A small groundsel bush. Photo: Brian Worboys



Close-up of a groundsel bush female flower. Photo: Reece Luxton



Groundsel bush leaf. Photo: Brian Worboys



Groundsel bush seeds are carried by wind or water. Photo: Graham Johnson



Groundsel bush male flower head. Photo: B. Trounce

Management Calendar

The calendar below outlines the management approach for a typical year.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Growth stage	Germination possible at any time with good moisture.								Optimal germination.		Germination possible at any time with good moisture.			
					Flowering.				Seedling growth - shoots slow at first while roots establish.					
	Rapid growth.						Evergreen in warmer areas. Semi deciduous in cooler areas.		Rapid growth.					
Action	Best time for herbicide control.			Mechanical removal.				Best time for herbicide control.						

Recommended control options may vary according to your area. There are experienced professional Weeds Officers based in each Local Government Area who have local knowledge and can provide expert advice for your weed management situation. Contact your expert Weeds Officer at your local Council or at Hunter Regional Weeds.

Herbicide control options for all areas in NSW, including current herbicide registrations, are available for Groundsel bush at <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/67>.

Remember that *all herbicide must be used and handled in accordance with the label or permit*.

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/GroundselBush>



Get the WeedWise app

Further information

For further information on how to meet your General Biosecurity Duty on your property, your best source is the expert Weeds Officer at your local Council or via Hunter Regional Weeds.

Contact Hunter Regional Weeds

www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au

Hunter Local Land Services

www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au

NSW Weed Wise

www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au



Groundsel bush invading pasture. Photo: H Rose