

Seen this plant? Hudson pear

Cylindropuntia pallida



Images: Jo-Anna Skewes, NW Cacti Control Coordinator

Hudson pear is a cactus with pink flowers and large spines. The spines can injure people and animals and puncture car tyres. It spreads readily and is hard to manage.

- displaces native flora
- can kill native fauna including koalas
- can make mustering difficult.

The spines have a sheath that can stay in a wound after the spine is taken out. This can cause more pain and inflammation.

How does this weed affect us?

- has vicious spines that can penetrate skin, shoes and tyres
- can injure people, stock and pets
- reduces land value

Seen it? Call us:

**Walgett Shire
Weed Officer
0428 462 060**

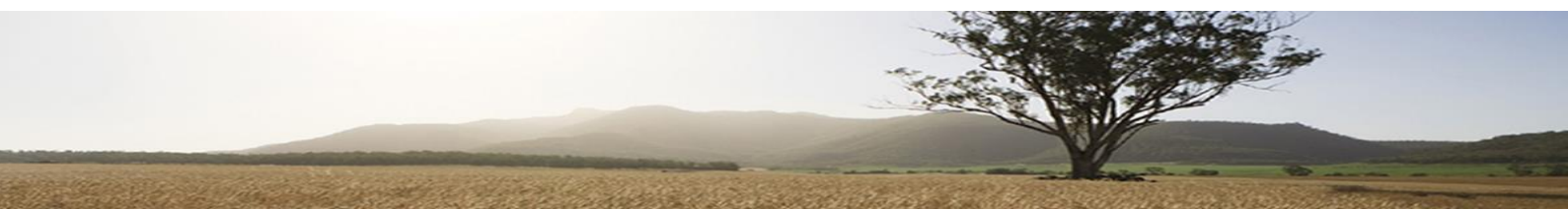
**Biosecurity
Hotline
1800 680 244**



Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit

NSW WeedWise: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/HudsonPear>





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Where are you likely to find it?

The current Australian distribution of Hudson pear is north-western NSW (Lightning Ridge, Grawin and Glengarry and at Cumborah, although infestations have also been reported from Broken Hill, Pilliga, Brewarrina, near Coonamble and Goodooga, ACT, QLD, SA, VIC and WA. Estimates of the area of NSW infested range from 60,000 to 100,000 hectares.

Hudson pear occurs in a variety of habitats including eucalypt woodlands, alluvial floodplains, shrublands and rocky outcrops.

What does it look like?

Hudson pear is a branched cactus which grows to 1.5 m high and 3 m wide.

Spines are:

- up to 3.5 cm long
- covered with a whitish sheath that comes off
- clustered in groups of 4–8 on small raised bumps.

Flowers are:

- pink to purple
- 5 cm wide
- with a pale yellow stigma
- with golden anthers holding pollen. Anthers sit on top filaments that are pink at the top turning cream towards the base
- present in late spring and summer.

Fruits are:

- yellow when ripe
- oval shaped
- 2–4.5 cm long
- less spiny as they age.

Cladodes are:

- green to grey-green
- cylinder shaped
- branched off the trunk
- up to 90 cm long and 4 cm in diameter.
- and 2–4.5 cm long.

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