

# paterson's curse

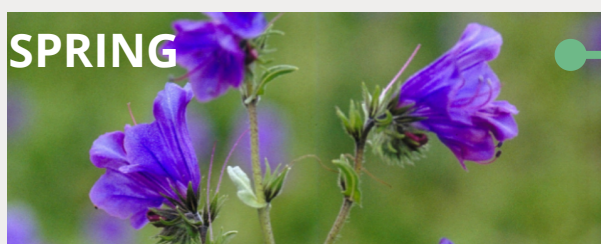
*Echium plantagineum*



Also known as: salvation jane, blueweed

## About

- Native to the Mediterranean region
- Named after the Paterson family of Cumberoona, New South Wales, who planted it in their garden in the 1880s.
- Cost Australian sheep and cattle producers \$250 million annually



## Need to know

- Toxic to livestock, particularly horses, though sheep can graze it for a time
- Displaces native annuals 🙄
- Dense stands form a seed bank up to 30,000 seeds per square metre
- Seeds viable for 2 - 6 years
- Some biological control insects – weevils and beetles

## WHAT YOU CAN DO



**PULL IT OUT**



**SPOT SPRAY**

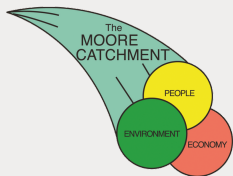
Until early flowering



**DESTROY**

**FLOWERS and SEEDS**

*Don't let plants  
escape from  
your garden!*



# CONTROL

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### The Life Cycle

**HIGH PRIORITY**

Calendar Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Germination	O	O	O	O	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	O	O
Active Growth						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Flowering	Y								Y	Y	Y	Y
Fruiting	Y	O									O	Y
Manual Removal	O	O	O	O	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	O
Herbicide Treatment					Y	Y	Y	Y	O			

**Legend:** Y = Yes, regularly, O = Occasionally, U = Uncertain, referred by others but not confirmed.

Source: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/6681>

## IT SPREADS BY SEED

**If you don't get the whole plant, it will regrow.**

**Best option**



**PULL IT OUT**

- It's easier when it's young
- You must remove 20-40 cm of tap root
- Much easier when it's small
- Destroy the plant if there are flowers or seeds



**SPOT SPRAY**

Read the manufacturers' labels and material safety data sheets before spraying.

- **When young:** 0.5 g/10 L chlorsulfuron plus wetter. (Will prevent further germination)
- **Early flowering:** 75 ml -100 ml/15 L Glyphosate plus wetter.

Source: <https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/patersons-curse/>

## Suggestions

- Remove it while there are only a few to stop it spreading.
- For large areas, start with smaller infestations on the perimeter.