

prickly paddy melon

Cucumis myriocarpus Naudin

Also known as: gooseberry cucumber, paddy melon

About

- Native to Southern Africa.
- Number one weed of importance in Australian summer fallows of grain crops.
- Small golf-ball size fruit have soft spines.



Need to know



- Can produce up to 50 or more melons per plant, with each fruit containing up to 200 viable seeds.
- Often found with Afghan melon (larger fruit).
- Can cause major problems to plants, animals and people.



afghan melon

Citrullus lanatus

Aka: camel melon



WHAT YOU CAN DO



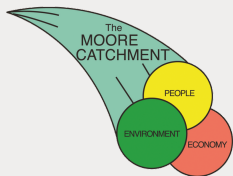
PULL IT OUT

When young



SPOT SPRAY

Before flowering



CONTROL prickly paddy melon



The Life Cycle

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

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

Source: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/73721>

IT SPREADS BY SEED

Picked up by birds, water, machinery, garden/other waste, herbivorous mammals (including rabbits and cattle).



PULL IT OUT

- Best option for small infestations.
- Make sure all of the plant is removed, including any fruit that have formed.
- Keep checking for new germinations after rain.



SPOT SPRAY

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

- High tolerance to glyphosate.
- Apply herbicide BEFORE flowering.
- Apply 2 ml Garlon® in 10 L of water + wetting agent.
- **Respray** for each germination following rain events.

Source: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/7372>

Suggestion

Just one!

get it when it's young!