

Senegal tea

Gymnocoronis spilanthoides

PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT

Number 15



DESCRIPTION

Senegal tea is a perennial, semi-aquatic herb with scrambling, floating stems up to 1.5 metres tall. It has ball-like flower heads containing seeds, and dark green leaves that are hairless, shiny and serrated.

OTHER NAMES USED:

Hygrophila costata, temple plant, costata.

VALUES AT RISK:

Recreational, ecological and aesthetic values, particularly on ponds, lakes and reservoirs.

STRATEGY RULE:

There is no rule requiring you to destroy Senegal tea. Any control is voluntary.

All pest plants are banned from being sold, propagated or distributed.

HOW TO DESTROY SENEGAL TEA:

Hand pull small isolated infestations, but ensure that all parts of the plant, including the roots, are removed and incinerated.

Use a herbicide such as glyphosate, although there is no label recommendation on this herbicide specifying Senegal tea.

Under the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*, spraying aquatic herbicides directly into water to control unwanted aquatic plants is permitted without a resource consent, as long as:

- You do not spray any of the regionally significant wetlands identified in the Fresh Water Plan.
- You use an approved spray and as directed by the manufacturer's instructions.
- You make sure it does not drift over property boundaries or other non-target areas.
- There are no significant environmental effects.

- No potable water supplies or other water uses are affected.
- If there is any accidental discharge of spray, you must let the Regional Council know as soon as possible.

If you cannot meet any of these requirements, then you may be required to stop spraying, avoid problems recurring, or apply for a resource consent.

Guidance for using glyphosate

- Best results for controlling Senegal tea, using glyphosate, are achieved when the plant is actively growing – from October to January.
- At least 75% of the weed to be treated must be above the water level and the plant should not be silt laden.
- Spray plant foliage and stems from all sides to give complete and uniform coverage.
- Follow mixing instructions carefully as concentrations of glyphosate vary in the different formulations of this herbicide.
- This product must be under the control of an approved handler when applied onto or into water. Records of use must be kept when applied onto or into water.

The Taranaki Regional Council accepts no responsibility for any error or omission in these pages, nor for the use or misuse of any herbicide product. Users must observe safe practice guidelines and any directions on the product label. If in doubt, contact the product supplier for advice

For further advice or information about pest plant management contact:

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

Pest Plant Management Section
Private Bag 713, Stratford
Ph: 06 765 7127 or 0800 736 222
Fax: 06 765 5097 www.trc.govt.nz