

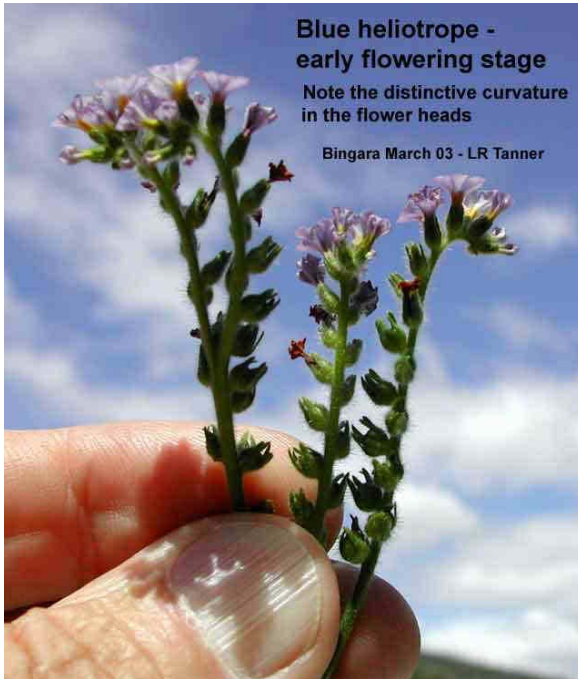


North West Weeds

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL UNIT FOR GWYDIR AND INVERELL SHIRES

Please address all correspondence to the General Manager, Gwydir Shire Council, Locked Bag 5, BINGARA, NSW, 2404 - Phone 02 6729 1016, faxes 02 6729 1400, email tannerl@northnet.com.au

Blue Heliotrope



Blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule* Vahl) is a native plant of South America. Its cousin, common heliotrope (*Heliotropium europaeum* L.) is from southern and central Europe, western Asia and northern Africa. Both species can be toxic to animals.

Both plants readily establish along roadsides, disturbed areas, fallows and degraded pastures. The plants are spread by seeds and rootstocks.

How to identify blue heliotrope

Blue heliotrope flowers are purple or lilac, with a yellow centre. Common heliotrope has white flowers. Both plants have a characteristic bend in that part of the plant that holds the flowers - as indicated in the photo, left.

Both blue and common heliotrope emit very strong and unpleasant odours during the main growing and flowering periods.

Effect on animals?

Blue heliotrope is poisonous to cattle, especially young cattle. According to *Noxious Plants of Australia* by Parsons and Cuthbertson (Inkata Press), blue heliotrope causes acute and chronic liver damage:

"Symptoms of poisoning include depression, photosensitisation, scouring, straining, abdominal swelling, depraved appetite, staggering gait, circling and death. Autopsy reveals enlarged, hardened and sometimes nodulated livers with enlarged thick-walled gall bladders. There is a massive build-up in the abdomen and, while the rumen is distended with ingesta, virtually empty intestines".



MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WEEDS OFFICER:

Stephen Kneller Bingara 0427 240 061	Clem McLeod Inverell 0427 453 052	Doug Stieger Warialda 0427 291 912	Les Tanner Head Office 0427 241 806
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OR check out our website on www.northwestweeds.nsw.gov.au

Common heliotrope is toxic to sheep, cattle and horses, especially when the animals are subjected to repeat grazing on this plant and other plants with similar qualities such as Paterson's curse.

As with all problem plants the risk to animals is higher when they are put into a new paddock. In these situations, stressed and disorientated animals will often try a variety of plants that they would not normally eat.



Control methods

Blue heliotrope is currently NOT a declared noxious weed within Inverell and Gwydir Shires. However, all landholders are urged to keep this invasive pest plant off their properties!

Biological Early days yet but NSW Dept of Primary Industries' Weed Biological Control Unit in collaboration with [CSIRO Canberra](#) has released a biological agent for control of blue heliotrope. Results of field releases in north-west NSW since 2004 are very encouraging. More information on this work is available from Dept of Primary Industries (Tamworth) or from North West Weeds.

According to NSW Dept of Primary Industries' excellent booklet "**Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 2004/2005**":

Non-Chemical Options: Dig out single plants. Improve pastures with vigorous perennial species. Ploughing is not an option because (a) the plant grows from root pieces and (b) dormant seeds will be brought to life.

Chemical Options:

Chemical	Rate	Comments
Triclopyr + Picloram Grazon DS®	500 ml in 100 L water	Apply at flowering in a minimum spray volume of 1250 L/Ha.
Dicamba Various trade names	1.5 L in 100 L of water or 22.0 L/ha	Young, actively growing plants
Fluroxypyr eg Starane®	1.0 L in 100 L water	Actively-growing bushes in full leaf
Amitrole + ammonium thiocyanate	1.1 L in 100 L water	Young active growth, just before flowering
Tebuthiuron Graslan®	0.5 g per square metre	DO NOT use within 30 m of trees, DO NOT apply to areas greater than 0.5 hectares in size
Metsulfuron methyl Various trade names	10 g in 100 L of water	Folia application, plus add surfactant PER 3771
Glyphosate 360 g/L Various trade names	1.0 L in 100 L water 2.0 L per hectare	Actively growing plants, late spring to autumn at commencement of flowering and before seed set. DO NOT apply to plants under stressed conditions

IMPORTANT: USE OF PESTICIDES - ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Pesticides must only be used for the purpose for which they are registered and must not be used in any other situation or in any manner contrary to the directions on the label. Never use a herbicide in any way contrary to the label recommendations.

MORE INFORMATION: "*Noxious Plants of Australia*", by Parsons and Cuthbertson [Inkata].

DISCLAIMER: The information contained herein is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of North West Weeds or the user's independent adviser. (LRT 15/06/06)