

Perennial Nettle

(*Urtica dioica*)

Is Perennial Nettle on your property?

If you see any sites of infestation, please contact us on freephone 0508 800 800.



Identification

Strongly growing invasive herbaceous perennial to 1.5 m tall, with creeping rhizomes. Woody stems with toothed heart-shaped leaves. Both stems and leaves are covered with stinging bristly hairs. Insignificant green male and female flowers appear on separate plants, January-March. Seeds are flat, oval and yellow to grey in colour. Unpleasant smell and unpalatable.

Weedy characteristics

Extensive underground rhizome system excludes desirable pasture and indigenous species. Also makes dense stands.

Methods of dispersal

Pieces of broken rhizome root easily and can be spread by water or mechanical cultivation. Seeds spread by stock, vehicles or birds.

Impact on indigenous plants

Tough invasive rhizomes can inhibit the growth of native species. But as this plant has a preference for damp, highly fertile land it restricts mainly pasture species.

Typical habitats

Cultivated pasture land, waste areas, areas where stock congregate or shelter. Infestations can affect both rural and urban areas as well as recreational land, particularly close to rivers, streams and bush.

Control

1. Spray with Grazon at 300 ml /100 L water. October-February.
2. Apply Tordon 2G granules to actively growing plants before seeds set.

Site management

Follow up with herbicide control may be required.

Species recovery

Cut plants will resprout.

NB. The nettle grown for herbal harvesting is the annual nettle, not this species.

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

