

CHAPTER 3

Choosing a control program



3.1 Assess the infestation

The control option you choose will partly depend on the nature of each infestation. Use survey and mapping methods identified in Chapter 2.2 to classify infestations according to their size, density and location.

3.2 Assess the resources available

Your control options and area of infestation you tackle will be limited by the resources available. You should only take on an area if you can control it in the long-term. Spraying an area once without follow up control is not only a waste of time and money, but will make future control efforts even more difficult. Make sure your objectives are achievable and affordable.

Planning is an essential part of integrated control. Plan for the long-term and revise your plan regularly through monitoring control sites and adapting your goals and methods if required. You can use the templates at 3.5 as a step-by-step guide to planning your integrated control program. Ensure you cost the control program and include this in the overall property financial plan.

3.3 Establish objectives

You now need to prioritise areas of infestation and consider:

- Does the area have high conservation, cultural or production value?
- Is the infestation blocking access to an important area?
- Is the area in an environmentally sensitive area, or near native species?
- Is the area steep or difficult to get to?
- Is the infestation too big to eradicate at once?
- Is the infestation at the top or bottom of the catchment?
- Is it likely to spread from here?
- Is it near a riparian zone?

Sensitive areas will require control methods such as basal bark or cut-stump which cause no off-target damage. These areas may include:

- infestations close to native vegetation;
- conservation site;
- heritage site;
- sacred site;
- riparian zones near waterways; and
- steep areas.

Examples of objectives may include eradication, prevention of seed production, containment of infestation, preventing introduction or spread, reducing impact or control of outlying areas. The objectives you choose will depend upon the resources available, as well as the location and nature of each infestation and potential for it to spread.



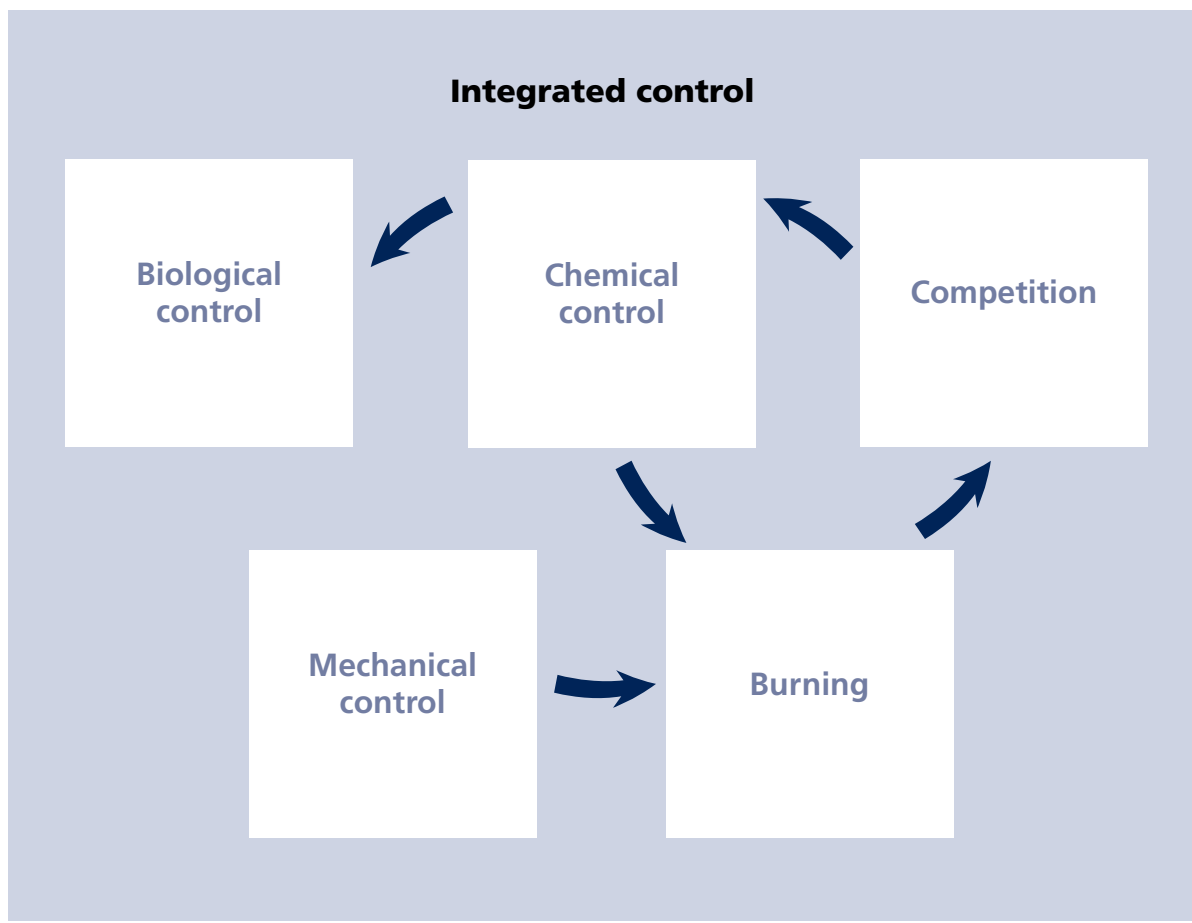
3.4 Choose control methods

Use the information in Chapter 2 to decide which control method is best for each location and when you intend to implement it for maximum effect. Consider whether you have sufficient information or whether further survey work is required. Record the results of each action undertaken for future reference.

Examples of integrated control methods include biological control, management of grazing pressure, feral animal management, fire management, livestock quarantine, use of machinery and use of herbicides.

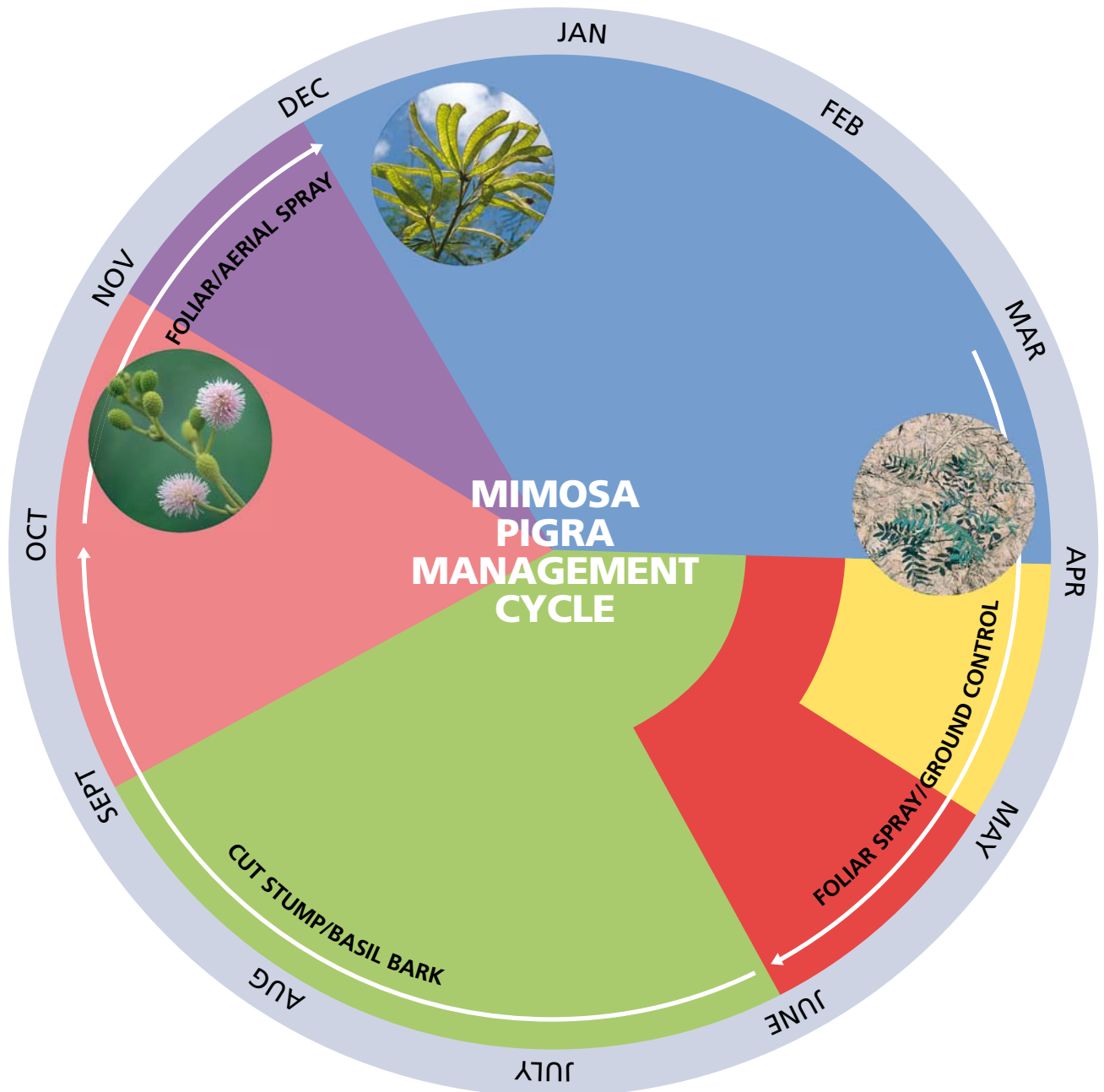
Integrated weed control is essential to eradicating, containing and preventing spread or reinfestation of mimosa. Control methods need to be combined appropriately at the right time to maximise their effect and ensure mimosa infestations remain under control.

- Chemical control should be used before mechanical control to kill the mimosa before clearing and burning.
- The cleared land that is left needs to be appropriately managed, through reduced grazing rates, feral animal control and fire management, to promote natural succession with native pasture.
- Revegetation with native plants such as native hymenachne can also help provide extra competition for mimosa seedlings.
- Biocontrol agents can be used in conjunction with other control methods to reduce seed production and growth of plants.



Control methods should be timed to maximise effectiveness. A diagram is provided below as a general guide to the lifecycle of Mimosa and how it relates to control methods⁸.

Timing of the lifecycle varies as it depends upon environmental factors such as rainfall and temperature which vary significantly from year to year.



Plant activity increasing - good timing for foliar applications and ground applied herbicides.

Aerial control - best when plant is active and before flooding occurs.

Wet season

As floodwater recedes, seeds on floodplain fringes will start to germinate. Foliar spray.

Burning of chained areas before 30 June.

Plant activity generally decreasing except moist floodplain sites. Not a suitable time for foliar spraying.



The Mimosa Pigra Management Cycle should only be used as a guide – timing of control methods will vary from year to year and region to region depending on each season.

1. Foliar spraying from the ground and distribution of soil applied herbicides should occur as the growth rate and plant activity increase in October, prior to the onset of monsoonal rain.

2. Aerial spraying should occur in the early wet season before flooding occurs and seed production. Emerging seedlings can also be aerial sprayed in early dry season.

3. Spot spraying from the ground or hand pulling should occur as seedlings emerge in early dry season.

4. Ground control with foliar spray, basal bark or cut-stump can continue into the dry season as wetlands dry out and become accessible.

5. Chaining and burning of treated areas should occur in the dry season, before July when fire danger significantly increases.

6. Monitor results Use surveys and photo points to monitor the results of control actions on a regular basis. Review the success of control methods undertaken and outline follow up control methods.

3.5 Mimosa management plan templates

Create your own mimosa management plan using the following templates.

Management areas	Priority rating	Objective	Method
	High		
	Medium		
	Low		

Seasonal work plan

Month	Management areas	Planned activities

Plan review

Management areas	Planned activities	Dates worked and what was done	Results	Results and changes required

Seasonal work calendar

Month	Location (management area)						
January							
February							
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							