



Mimosa pigra

National Best Practice Management Manual

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Australian Government



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NRETAS
PO Box 496
Palmerston NT 0831

For copies of this manual please contact:

WoNS Coordinator
PO Box 496
Palmerston NT 0831

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Photography and maps: Buck Salau/ Kakadu National Park, Anna Boustead/Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport, Michael Schmid/ Weed Management Branch of NRETAS, Sandy Leighton, Vinod Chejara/ Biological Control Unit of NRETAS, Keith Ferdinands/ Biological Control Unit of NRETAS, Tim Heard/ CSIRO, Jaemie Page, Simon Love/ Communications and Media NRETAS

Author: Anna Boustead, Environment Centre NT

Members of the National Mimosa Management Committee at the time of publishing include: Jim Forwood/ Chairman, Steve Wingrave/ NT NRETAS Weed Management Branch, Barry Scott/ NT NRETAS Parks and Wildlife, Tony Searle/ NT Cattlemen's Association, Jaemie Page/ NT Local Government Association, Arthur Cameron/ NT DRDPIFR, Noel Wilson/ WA DAF, Tim Heard/ CSIRO Entomology, QLD DPIF, Robyn Leven/ Australian Government, John Thorp/ National Weeds Management Facilitator, Justine Yanner/ NLC

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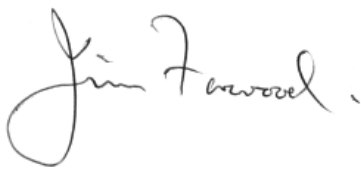
Mimosa pigra

Foreword

Mimosa pigra is a Weed of National Significance with the ability to alter entire landscapes. Its spread throughout the Top End of the Northern Territory poses a great threat to the wetlands of that region. Perhaps of greatest concern is that mimosa has the potential to spread throughout the wetlands of north Australia. These wetlands are internationally recognised for their abundance of wildlife and provide an important place for fishing, hunting and traditional cultural activities. Mimosa also poses a great threat to the productivity of the pastoral and agricultural industries. Preventing the introduction and spread of this weed to other areas is of highest priority.

Once established, *Mimosa pigra* can be difficult to remove and a long-term commitment is required. However, this manual demonstrates that, with proper planning and the right tools, *Mimosa pigra* can be managed successfully. It will help you to identify and control mimosa as well as guide your management plan, along with advice from your local weed management agency.

The National Mimosa Management Committee is working to ensure all landholders are able to recognise and control this pest so that the wetlands of north Australia continue to thrive. I encourage you to read and refer to this manual in all your land management activities.



J.B. Forwood AM
Chairman
National Mimosa Management Committee

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Introduction

Mimosa pigra is a Weed of National Significance declared in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia as a weed of highest priority for prevention of introduction and spread. Mimosa can grow in wet areas on the banks of rivers, coastal plains and floodplains.

Since it was introduced from tropical America to the Darwin Botanic Gardens in the late 1800s, mimosa has spread throughout many of the Northern Territory's major catchments. Mimosa infestations in Australia are currently restricted to the Northern Territory and one dam near Proserpine, Queensland. However, it threatens to spread across the entire wetlands, coastal plains and river systems of northern Australia.

Northern Australia hosts some of the most intact wetland systems in the world, including several internationally significant Ramsar wetlands. Wetlands play an extremely important role in regulating nutrient and water cycles, providing habitat and food and are an important part of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous culture by providing a place for fishing, hunting and cultural activities.

Mimosa can reduce wetland habitat by outcompeting native vegetation, reducing the productivity of pastoral land and blocking the access to wetland areas by forming dense impenetrable stands with little or no understorey. It is recognised as a key threat to biodiversity, traditional land use, recreational activities, the sustainability of agriculture and tourism.

With each mature plant capable of producing hundreds of thousands of seeds, mimosa is able to spread incredibly fast. Seeds can float in waterways and floodwaters during the wet season. An infestation can double in size in just one year.

Early control is critical to preventing spread as it is difficult to eradicate once fully established. Mimosa seeds remain viable for many years, so follow up treatment requires constant vigilance and a long-term commitment to management. However, the benefits of implementing a proper mimosa control plan far outweigh the costs.

This manual is designed to help you make informed decisions about how to plan and carry out your mimosa control program. It is also designed so that landholders without significant mimosa infestations know how to recognise, monitor and prevent the establishment of mimosa on their land. This is very important as mimosa is able to spread long distances from any infestation with the aid of vehicles, boats and animals.

A national approach

There is a national urgency to prevent mimosa spreading from the Northern Territory to Western Australia and Queensland. This manual is consistent with the Mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*) Weeds of National Significance National Strategy (2001)¹ which includes four integrated programs:

- Information and Education
- Prevention of Spread
- Research and Development
- Impact Reduction

The Mimosa strategy is consistent with the Australian Weeds Strategy (2006)², which guides the management of Weeds of National Significance such as mimosa. The strategy emphasises early intervention and a coordinated and integrated approach to controlling weeds. The Mimosa Strategy is overseen by the National Mimosa Management Committee.

For more information about *Mimosa pigra* or any other Weed of National Significance, visit www.weeds.org.au.