

Spiny emex

Emex australis



What does it look like?

Spiny Emex is a low-lying and hairless annual herb. It spreads from a dense rosette and has a thick taproot. The leaves are dull green and are very similar to docks in shape. Flowers are inconspicuous and are produced in clusters in between the leaves and stem. Fruits (or burrs) are in clusters, with each of the three-cornered burrs forming in the forks of the leaves. Ripe burrs, when shed, lie with one sharp spike upwards. Spiny Emex is found on sandy soils incoastal areas. In Hawke's Bay it is found in two areas – just north of Napier on the coast and at Whakaki north of Wairoa

Why is it a problem?

Spiny Emex has hard and spiny fruit with three points. This fruit can injure animals and humans and cause lameness. Wool can be down-graded when it contains these seeds. Spiny Emex contains oxalate levels which are high enough to poison sheep if they eat substantial amounts.

Control Methods

In Hawke's Bay control is achieved mainly by grubbing, as Spiny Emex is only found in small isolated sites. The plant is susceptible to Glyphosate and hormone herbicides can be used at the rosette stage only, eg MCPA or 24D

[Request more information](https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/environment/pest-control/pest-hub/pest-hub-enquiry-form)

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Notify Council

If you have seen or suspect the presence of Spiny emex you must report the sighting to Hawke's Bay Regional Council immediately

Pest Management Programme

- Eradication Programme
- Unwanted Organism

Summary of Rules

- Sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, which prevent the communication, release, spread, sale and propagation of pests, must be complied with.

What is council doing about this?

If spotted, please contact Hawke's Bay Regional Council