

# ENVIRONMENTAL WEED FACT SHEET

**NAME:**

## Fireweed

**BOTANICAL NAME:**

*Senecio madagasscariensis*

**ORIGIN:**

Fireweed is native to Madagascar and southern Africa,

**DESCRIPTION:**

A multi branched herb which is low growing to erect plant depending on conditions, growing up to 75 cm. Yellow flowers through out the year peaking in winter to early spring.

Note there are Australian natives that look similar but do not cause problems.

**BIOLOGY:**

Seeds can survive for a long time before germinating, so any control program will need to continue for a number of years. Numbers increase following drought.

**HABITAT:**

Aggressive plant that competes with pastural plants. Is poisonous to animals.



See other side for control methods.

# CONTROL METHODS:

Early control is essential to avoid major problems.

## Mechanical

Hand pulling plants can be laborious, and requires a lot of patience to control even small infestations.

Frequent slashing/mowing when flowering will reduce seed production, but will not kill the majority of the plants, and they will quickly regrow.

Improve pasture management practices and intergrate with herbicide applications.

## Chemical

There are several herbicides registered for the control of fireweed.

Caution when applying herbicides must be used in consideration for any non target plant.

Always read the label before using any pesticides. All chemicals **MUST** be used strictly in accordance with the registered label for the product.

## Biological

There are occasions where insect damage can be significant, however this is usually only on rare occasions.

For additional information, contact the Vegetation Control Officer at Lake Macquarie City Council – (02) 49210360

