



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Noogoora burr (471)

Relates to: **Weeds**



Photo 1. Dense stand, noogoora burr, *Xanthium strumarium*.



Photo 2. Individual plant, noogoora burr, *Xanthium strumarium*.

Photo 3. Leaves, noogoora burr, *Xanthium strumarium*. Similar to a grape vine leaf.

Photo 4. Young burrs, noogoora burr, *Xanthium strumarium*.



Photo 6. Developing flowers and fruits, noogoora burr, *Xanthium strumarium*. The male flowers are circled blue, whereas the female flowers are circled red.

Photo 5. Developing flowers and fruits, noogoora burr, *Xanthium strumarium*.



Photo 7. Mature and maturing fruits, noogoora burr, *Xanthium strumarium*.



Photo 8. Seeds and woody fruit, noogoora burr, *Xanthium strumarium*.

Summary

- Widespread. Asia, Africa, North America, Caribbean, Europe, Oceania. In Fiji, New Zealand, PNG.

- Forming large stands on disturbed land: grassland-woodlands, water courses, floodplains, dry sandy riverbeds, roadsides, ditches, wasteland. Also, a weed of row crops (soybeans, cotton, maize, peanuts), plantations and pastures. Invasive weediness due to tolerance of soil types, climates, ease of spread.
- Annual, erect, multi-branched stems, up to 150 cm, with short dark streaks, and short stiff hairs. Leaves, opposite (lower), or alternate (upper) along stems, dark green, triangular, up to 20 cm long, margins toothed, and surfaces with bristles. Male flowers in clusters at top of branches, female below with hooked spines. Fruits, brown, hard, woody with two grey or black seeds, flattened on one side
- Spread: burrs, by animals; clothing; water; roadmaking materials; vehicles.
- Biosecurity: high risk of introduction: seeds easily spread.
- Biocontrol: moths, *Euaesta aequalis*, and *Epiblema strenuana*; beetles, *Mecas saturnina* and *Nupserha vexator*, introduced to Australia, but not yet successful.
- Cultural control: hand weeding, hoeing, slashing or mowing; inter-row cultivation; vehicle hygiene.
- Chemical control: in Australia: 2,4-D; 2,4-D + picloram; glyphosate (and Fiji); fluroxpyr; metsulfuron-methyl; MCPA.

Common Name

Noogoora burr; it is also known as cockleburr, or common cockleburr.

Scientific Name

Xanthium strumarium. It is also known as *Xanthium pungens* and *Xanthium occidentale*. It is a member of the Asteraceae.

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Adapted from Noogoora burr (*Xanthium occidentale*) (2018) Weeds of SE Qld and Northern NSW. Lucidcentral. (<https://www.lucidcentral.org/editors-pick-animal-and-plant-identification-keys/key-to-weeds-of-se-ql-and-northern-nsw>); and additional information from CABI (2019) *Xanthium strumarium* (common cockleburr). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/56864>); and Noogoora burr *Xanthium pungens* (2020) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The State of Queensland. (https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/77723/IPA-Noogoora-Burr-PP17.pdf); and from *Xanthium strumarium* L. (2016) Weeds of Australia. Biosecurity Queensland Edition. Queensland Government. (https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/html/xanthium_strumarium.htm). Photo 1 David J. Moorhead, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Jan Samanek, Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org. Photo 3-5 Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org. Photo 7 Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org.

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