

PLANT PEST CONTROL

LAND PLANT PESTS

Spiny Emex: *Emex australis*

Why are we worried?

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 containing the seeds. Spiny Emex contains oxalate levels which are high enough to poison sheep if they eat substantial amounts. It is a serious weed.

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.

Where is it found?

Spiny Emex is found on sandy soils in coastal areas. In Hawke's Bay it is found in two areas – just north of Napier on the coast and at Whakaki north of Wairoa.

What's the best way to control the plant?

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.



Plant and rosette

For further information

If you think you may have this plant pest on your property, please contact the Biosecurity Plants Officers at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice and we will work with you to eradicate it.

Wairoa	0-6-838 8527
Napier	0-6-835 9200
Waipukurau	0-6-858 8636
TOLL FREE	0800 108 838