

Pest Plants

of the Wellington Region

Bathurst bur

Xanthium spinosum

How do I identify Bathurst bur?

Upright, annual herb that can grow up to **1 metre** tall

Leaves: Glossy green or blue green three fingered leaves with a prominent **white mid vein**. There may be **sharp spines** at the base of the leaf axils

Flowers: Tiny, small and yellow

Fruits: Many small, **brown, oval, hard capsules** containing 2 seeds covered in many hooked filaments. Commonly referred to as 'burs'

Stems: Rounded and may have spines

Roots: Shallow taproot

Where found: Pastoral land around gates, fences, water holes but also in grass areas

What's the problem?

- The plants burs can attach to livestock fleeces and coats and can make them unmarketable; spines can cause sores in the mouths of livestock and can carry diseases
- Uncontrolled plants can build up to large areas which will not be grazed by livestock
- It is spread by burs attaching themselves to clothing, livestock, or in transport; in seed and feed; in gravel or soil; and by water

What do I do?

- If you suspect you have Bathurst bur or have seen it somewhere in the Wellington region, please contact us and we'll come and have a look
- If it is Bathurst bur, we will control it for free and record the sites location for future work

Fact:

Bathurst was the first place this plant was discovered in Australia. It actually comes from South America

