

# HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?



## THIS IS HONEY LOCUST

Botanical Name *Gleditsia tricanthos*. Also known as McConnell's Curse or bean tree.

- From Spring to Autumn it bears prolific green leaves (10cm long) with about 12 opposite paired leaflets per leaf.
- The trunk and branches are covered in strong, tri-pointed spines.
- Spines can grow to more than 50mm.
- Seed pods are brown and flattened to 20-40cm long.
- Seeds are first produced when the plant is 3 to 5 years old.
- The plant seeds prolifically every 1-2 years and pods are relished by stock.
- Trees in excess of 12 years of age may produce in excess of 500kg of seed.
- Seed is spread by grazing stock eating pods and passing seed in dung, floodwaters transporting floating pods and people planting it as an ornamental or for fodder.

# WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

It is a highly invasive tree capable of outcompeting and replacing native vegetation. It is a major threat to the environment and sustainable pasture production, particularly in riparian areas.

It creates dense monocultures restricting access to water for native fauna and also provides a haven for introduced pest animals such as foxes, cats and rabbits. The dense thickets also prevent stock access to water.

## Where is it a problem?

Honey locust is a Declared Class 1 weed in QLD, this means that it is subject to eradication from the state.

In the Far North Coast area of NSW, including the adjoining Clarence Valley, honey locust is a Class 3 Noxious Weed and must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

Honey locust is confined to a small area in the Glen Innes Severn Local Government area and now is a good time to act to ensure it does not become a major weed threat in the future.

## Control

The best approach for control is to combine different control methods. These may include chemical, mechanical control methods combined with land management.

Try to eradicate isolated trees as your first priority.

Herbicide control is effective and a number of registered chemicals available to control the honey locust plant.

For more information on control using chemicals contact your local weeds officer for Glen Innes Severn Council David Nixon on 6730 2358.

The following organisations are currently supporting on ground projects to reduce the population of honey locust in the Mann River catchment.

