

Senegal Tea

Gymnocoronis spilanthoides

This weed is declared noxious in many local councils across Sydney.

Always check the declaration and control requirements for your own local council area at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/noxweed



What does it look like?

- Stems are ribbed, pale green and erect, becoming prostrate as they lengthen and age. They are hollow between the nodes and buoyant, able to form tangled floating mats. Stems branch at nodes and are 1 – 1.5m long and 5 – 10mm in diameter, increasing to 1 – 2cm with age. Fine, fibrous roots form at stem nodes.
- White, pom-pom-like flowers 1.5 – 2cm in diameter occur in groups at the ends of stems. Flowering starts in late spring or early summer and continues until temperatures fall. Flowers have a strong fragrance. Seeds are yellow-brown, 5mm in diameter, and ribbed.

Habitat

Senegal tea prefers tropical, subtropical and warm temperate regions, and will grow in damp floodplain soils, on the margins of creeks and dams, in wetlands and in still or slow-flowing fresh water. Plants can grow when fully submerged, but growth is slower and plants are smaller. In some infestations plants have been found growing on the floodplain up to 150 m from the water body.

How does it spread?

Senegal tea reproduces by plant fragments and by seed. Plant fragments develop roots and new stems when they come into contact with soil.

Most new infestations in Australia occur as a result of plant fragments. While Senegal tea produces prolific amounts of

seeds, germination appears to be a minor form of spread in Australia.

Light is required for seed germination and most seeds germinate in spring (some continue to germinate through summer). Seedlings develop quickly as temperatures increase. Seeds can germinate in shallow water, and most fall close to the parent plant. Seeds can be moved in faster flowing water or in mud on vehicles or animals. Plant fragments can be moved in flowing water or in flood waters.

Plants are dormant during winter, reshooting from the crown and from protected buds at stem nodes the following spring.

Reference and controls

General information on control methods, can be found in the most recent edition of the annual *Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook* (found on the [DPI website](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)). The most appropriate weed control methods should always be checked with your Local Control Authority (local council or county council).

- WEEDeck from www.sainty.com.au
- www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
- www.sydneyweeds.org.au
- www.aabr.org.au