

Asthma Weed, Pellitory

Parietaria judaica

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?

- Many-branched perennial herb that grows up to one metre high
- Leaves are green, soft, oval shape with pointed ends, and are 2cm to 8cm long
- Leaves are arranged alternately along pink or red stems
- Flowers are very small, light green in colour, and clustered long the stems
- Leaves, flowers and stems are covered with sticky hairs

Where does it grow?

Asthma weed is common on waste-ground, in moist gullies, in and around sandstone outcrops, and as a groundcover in disturbed areas. Is also commonly found in gardens, often growing out of rock crevices, walls and cracks in cement. Asthma weed also known as Pellitory of the wall or sticky weed, has taken hold in areas in and around Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle. It is also spreading in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane. It came into Australia from the Mediterranean region, where it is a major problem to control and also a major cause of allergies. It causes allergic reactions through its pollen, which is produced throughout the year but copiously in spring, as well as by coming in contact with its slightly sticky leaves.

How does it spread?

Plants grow and produce seed very rapidly (within 2-3 weeks under favourable conditions). Regrowth is persistent, and plants can flower and set seed most of the year. The seeds are dispersed by wind, water and by attachment to clothing and animals by sticky hairs. Seeds are also spread in soil and mud attached to shoes, tyres and machinery.

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). 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

!!WARNING!!

Asthma weed is related to stinging nettles, and the sticky hairs on the plant's leaves and stem may produce a skin rash in sensitive people who come into contact with the plant. The pollen of asthma weed may also trigger hay fever, conjunctivitis, rhinitis and asthma.