

Cutch tree

Acacia catechu

Cutch tree is declared a Class A (to be eradicated) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory.

Cutch tree is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

Cutch tree causes economic damage by forming dens impenetrable stands. It can potentially reduce primary production by displacing and/or shading pastures. The sharp thorns on cutch tree branches can impede the movement and mustering of stock.

So far, cutch tree has only been found in Darwin in the Northern Territory. It spread from the Darwin Botanic Gardens to the nearby Darwin High School. Control of these two infestations was initiated in the 1980's, and is ongoing to ensure that cutch tree is completely eradicated.

HABIT



A small tree, growing 3 - 15m high.

STEMS & BRANCHES



Stem is dark brown to black, with rough bark that peels off in long strips in mature trees. Young trees have corky bark. A taproot branches to 2m deep.

LEAVES



The fern-like leaves are 10 - 20cm long, containing 8 - 30 pairs of small leaves made up of secondary leaflets. Pairs of thorns up to 10 mm long found at the base of each leaf.

FLOWERS



Flowers are white or pale yellow, about 3mm long and tightly bunched together to form a cylindrical flower spike.

FRUIT & SEED



Brown seed pods are 50 - 125mm long on a short stalk. Pods contain between four and seven seeds, which are dark brown, flat and 5 - 8mm wide.

Weed Management Officers from the Weed Management Branch can provide advice on all aspects of weed management including control techniques, biological control, legislative responsibilities, policy advice, monitoring and reporting and regional planning. For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the [NT Weed Management Handbook](#).