

# Prickly acacia

## *Vachellia nilotica* Syn. *Acacia nilotica*

Prickly acacia is declared a Class A (to be eradicated) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory and is a Weed of National Significance in Australia.

Prickly acacia is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

### HABIT



An erect shrub to 4m high with spine-covered stems.

### STEMS & BRANCHES



True leaves are shed early, and the flat stem segments are often incorrectly referred to as leaves.

The lower segments may thicken and form trunks on older plants.

### LEAVES



Flowers are yellow, produced mostly on the margins of the fleshy segments.

### FLOWERS



The fleshy fruit is pear-shaped, edible and turns purple when ripe. Seeds are pale brown, to 5mm long.

### FRUIT & SEED



Very distinctive elongate, hanging seedpods, usually 10 - 20cm long. The pod is constricted between seeds. When ripe the pods are grey-green in colour.

The soft and hairy seedpod breaks into single seeded segments once it drops.

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](#).