

Seen this plant?

Mesquite

Prosopis spp.



How does this weed affect us?

- Outcompetes native plants and reduces habitat for animals.
- Reduces land productivity by forming dense canopies (lower pasture growth).
- Forms impenetrable thickets that restrict livestock movement and utilisation of land or water sources.
- Long, hard spines injure people, livestock and damage machinery.
- Plants use large quantities of water – altering the environment.



Seen it? Call us:

**Cootamundra-Gundagai
Biosecurity Officer:**

1300 459 689

**NSW DPI Biosecurity
Helpline:**

1800 680 244

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:

weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Mesquite



Where are you likely to find it?

Mesquite grows in tropical, subtropical and semi-arid climates. Plants can tolerate a wide range of harsh conditions including high temperatures, drought, highly saline and alkaline conditions. They can grow in a wide range of soils including poor soils such as iron stone and cracking clays where little native vegetation grows. Plants can live for over 100 years.

What does it look like?

May be multi-stemmed shrubs 3–5 m tall or single-stemmed trees with a spreading canopy growing to 15 m tall. Single branches grow out past the main canopy giving the plant an untidy appearance. Leaves are fern-like and grow alternately along the stem. They are usually dark green but can range to bluish-green. Flowers are green-yellow and form cylindrical spikes (10cm long) in spring and summer. Seed pods (20cm length) are green when immature and progress to yellowy-purple when ripe. Pods are variable (straight and curved) and are constricted between individual seeds. Prominent spines grow from the stems and are up to 6cm long. Branches are zig-zagged in growth habit with smooth red-green bark that becomes rough and grey with age. The roots are extensive and feature a deep, central taproot.

What can you do? Visit NSW WeedWise for Biosecurity Duty.



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Regional Recommended Measure* (for Regional Priority - **Eradication**)

Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant. A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant. Notify local control authority if found.



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