

Long-leaf willow primrose (*Ludwigia longifolia*)

Weed management guide

Weed type
Shrub

February 2023

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-west



In NSW, weeds are regulated by the NSW Biosecurity Act, 2015. All land managers have a General Biosecurity Duty to contain the spread of weeds.

“General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent, minimize or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable).”

The Regional priority for Long-leaf willow primrose is Prevention. In order to achieve this, Land Managers are asked to: *Mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant should be eradicated from the land and the land kept free of the plant. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify local control authority if found.*

For further information, contact your local Biosecurity (Weeds) Officer via Central West Local Land Services or visit NSW WeedWise.

NSW WeedWise



Habit and description

Long-leaf willow primrose is an erect, hairless annual with four-angled stems native to Brazil and Argentina. Leaves are linear and alternately arranged, growing from 10-20 cm long. Flowers are yellow, solitary and develop in leaf axils. Fruit is a capsule and is characteristically four-sided and oblong in shape. It is an aquatic weed that can aggressively invade areas of wetlands and waterways, forming dense colonies in still water.

Three species can be confused with *L. longifolia*. The native *L. peploides* subsp. *Montevidensis* can be distinguished by its creeping habit and by its flowers (it has 5 petals and sepals while *L. longifolia* has 4). The native *L. octovalvis* and exotic *L. peruviana* can be distinguished by its hairy stems, leaves and fruit (the former has slightly ribbed fruit while the latter has strongly angled fruit).



Photo: © G. Prichard | NSW DPI



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Reproduction and spread

Long-leaf willow primrose is predominately spread by seed, with mature plants producing millions of small seeds (<1 mm). It flowers between winter and summer. Seeds can be spread by water, wind, birds, contaminated soil and soil movement on vehicles and clothing. It can also reproduce and spread vegetatively by the movement of broken stems in water.

Impacts

Agriculture

- Limits access of stock to waterways
- Changes water flow and increases flood risks



Native vegetation

- It can outcompete native vegetation and forms dense stands near waterways.
- Can reduce available food and habitat for aquatic fauna



Management

Chemical

- Spot spraying is most effective when applied to foliage
- Seek the guidance of an experienced Weeds Officer for expert advice on herbicide use.
- Visit www.apvma.gov.au for a list of registered products, product labels and permit requirements.
- NSW DPI (2018) provides a list of recommended herbicides for the control of Long-leaf willow primrose at <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/LongleafWillowPrimrose>

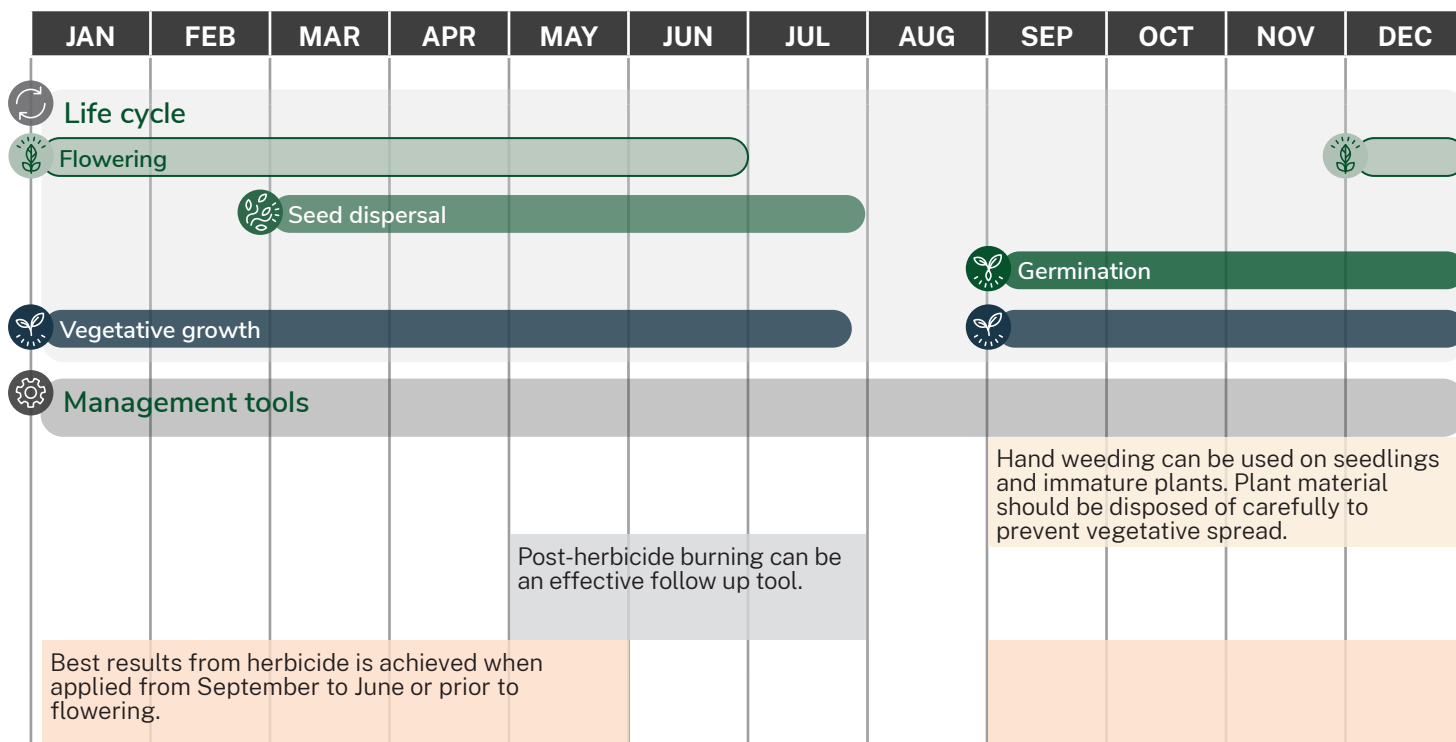


Non-chemical

- Hand weeding can be used to remove seedlings and younger plants.
- Ensure plant material is removed completely to prevent vegetative regrowth
- Prevention can be achieved by planting competitive riparian vegetation, reducing nutrient run-off and limiting access to infested areas.
- Post-herbicide burning can be an effective follow-up control tool.



Management calendar



Optimal control options may vary depending on your location and climate. Consult an experienced Weeds Officer based in your local government area for control methods suited to your conditions.

All herbicides must be used in accordance with the herbicide label and permit requirements.

NSW WeedWise

Further information

For more information on your general biosecurity duties, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity.

For the best guidance on how to meet this duty on your property, contact your expert Weeds Officer at your local council or via Local Land Services www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-west.



References

NSW DPI. (2018). *NSW WeedWise*. <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Longleafwillowprimrose>

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