

CROFTON WEED*Ageratina adenophora***Herbaceous**

Family Asteraceae
Origin Central America

Declared as a W2 and W3
 Noxious Weed in some
 shires *

Description Erect, branched perennial herb or undershrub growing 1-2 m high ³. Occurs along creek beds, forest clearings and in areas with steep frost free slopes where rainfall exceeds 1500 mm annually. Also common on damp soils but is able to grow in shade or full sun. Presence of this plant usually indicates wet areas ⁸.

Stems/Leaves Simple, opposite green leaves that are slightly hairy and glabrous. Leaves with toothed margins and triangular in shape. Prominent veins with a slightly purplish stem ³.

Flowers Small white flowers in spring ³.

Fruit/Seed Achene about 1-2 mm long with soft tufts of hair. Seasoning in summer one mature plant can produce 10,000-100,000 per year. Dispersal is via wind, water, mud carried by humans, animals and machinery ⁸.

Root system Short, thick taproot in addition to numerous lateral roots. The plant also has adventitious roots at the base of the stem ⁸.

Removal techniques

Manual Hand pull the whole plant. This is done most easily in moist soil ⁸. Work a long-handled garden fork into the soil under the roots of the plant until they loosen. Taking hold of the stem near the base of the plant pull up whilst levering the fork until the roots are freed from soil. Check for any remaining roots and remove. Check your clothing for any stray seed and remove ²¹.

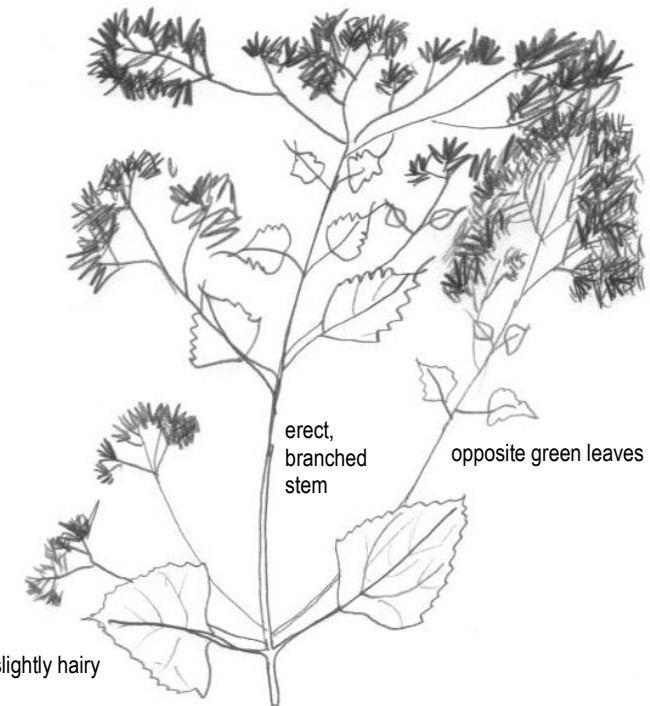
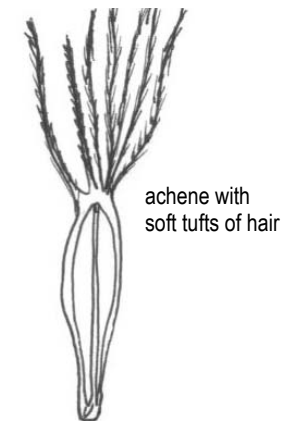
Chemical Chemical controls are available. Spray with 1% glyphosate. Take caution not to contaminate waterways ⁸.

Biological A combination of several organisms can achieve a measure of biological control. An attempt to control this weed with wasps was not successful ⁸.

Notes

Suspected of poisoning livestock ³.

After low intensity fire events the plant re-shoots from the base. The plant overall does not burn easily and seeds germinate quite readily. Within 8 weeks of germination damaged seedlings regenerate ⁸.

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* Declared as a W2 Noxious Weed by Lake Macquarie City Council and Wyong Shire Council. W2 Noxious Weeds are a threat to agriculture, the environment and community and have the potential to spread. They must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

* Declared as a W3 Noxious Weed by Gosford City Council. W3 Noxious Weeds are a widespread threat to agriculture, the community and environment. They must be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced.

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