

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

HOW TO TREAT

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The most successful agents in Australian history, namely the cactoblastis moth, cochineal insect and a mealy bug, continue to keep cacti under control; however, not all biological agents attack all cacti.

See the table below for the best biological control for each cactus.

BEST BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENT		
	Scientific name	Common name
Harrisia cactus	<i>Hypogeococcus festerianus</i>	Mealy bug
Prickly pear	<i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i>	Cactoblastis
Snake cactus	–	–
Smooth tree pear	<i>Dactylopius ceylonicus</i>	Cochineal
Tiger pear	<i>Dactylopius austrinus</i>	Cochineal
Tree pear	<i>Dactylopius opuntiae</i>	Cochineal

DISTRIBUTING BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS

1. Find a plant that is being attacked by cochineal or mealy bug.
2. Collect a section of the plant with insects.
3. Place affected pads against unaffected plants.
4. Follow up the biological control with herbicide treatment.

HERBICIDE CONTROL

Different application techniques may be used to treat different cacti. Access™ used at 1 L/60 L of diesel applied as an overall spray gives effective control of most cacti. This is the best treatment for quick and economical control of small (seedling) cacti.

Using Grazon™ Extra at 500 mL/100 L of water as a foliar spray will give slow burn down and regrowth may occur, so follow-up application may be necessary.

Tordon™ RegrowthMaster at 2.5 L/100 L of water will give effective control of harrisia cactus.

FOR BEST RESULTS

When using herbicides, only treat actively growing plants. If plants are particularly infested with biological control agents, Access in diesel will be the best option for complete control.

TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

Apply Access only with hand-directed equipment such as a pneumatic sprayer. The use of diesel as a herbicide carrier may affect the rubber seals in some sprayers. To avoid this, use sprayers that use Viton seals and fittings.

Spray equipment should be used at low pressures, up to 200 kPa, to avoid splashing.



CACTI



CACTI

Access™

HERBICIDE



Harrisia cactus



Prickly pear



Snake cactus



Smooth tree pear



Tiger pear



Tree pear

HERBICIDES FOR CONTROL OF CACTI

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ACCESS™ 1:60 WITH DIESEL FOLIAR/BASAL BARK	GARLON™ 600 1:60 WITH DIESEL BASAL BARK	GARLON 600 3 L/100 L OF WATER FOLIAR	GRAZON™ EXTRA 500 ML/100 L OF WATER FOLIAR	TORDON™ RegrowthMaster 2.5 L/100 L OF WATER FOLIAR
Harrisia cactus	<i>Eriocereus</i> spp.	✓				✓
Prickly pear (common)	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Snake cactus	<i>Peniocereus serpentinus</i>	✓				
Smooth tree pear	<i>O. monacantha</i>		✓		✓	
Tiger pear	<i>O. aurantiaca</i>	✓	✓	✓		
Tree pear	<i>O. tomentosa</i>	✓				

TIMING

Treatment should only be carried out when cacti are actively growing. Do not treat during hot, dry summer periods.

PRODUCT	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙️	⚙️	⚙️
Grazon Extra	✗	✗	⚙️	⚙️	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙️	✗	✗	✗

KEY

Best time to spray/treat	✓
Can spray/treat if conditions are suitable	⚙️
Do not spray/treat	✗



Confidence in a drum