

## *Bidens pilosa*

### Cobbler's Pegs

#### Description

Common names also include Farmers Friend, Pitchforks or Sticky Beak.

Native to Europe, Cobblers Peg is a herb up to 2m high. Mainly seen shorter in coastal areas. Found in disturbed areas exposed to full sun.

The leaves are opposite and divided into 3-5 lance shaped segments with serrated edges. Bright green whilst young, leaves can develop tinges of red and brown on maturity. Yellow sometimes, white flowers, appear all year. Prolific black seeds slender, 1cm long with a forked tip. Seeds attach easily to clothing, hair, fur or feathers.

#### The Problem

The seeds of Cobbler's Pegs can remain dormant for 3-5 years. Soil disturbance will cause prolific germination. The plant matures within 18 weeks. A single plant can have 3-4 generations a year, each capable of producing 3000-6000 seeds. The fibrous root system can be extensive and removal of the plant may cause the disturbed conditions required for germination. Cobbler's Pegs will out-compete native species on exposed disturbed soils due to their vigorous growth and prolific seeding.

#### Noxious Weed

Whilst Cobbler's Pegs is not a declared noxious weed in Strathfield it is considered an environmental weed. It is important that environmental weeds are destroyed, as they can affect human health, or can be invasive in the natural environment killing the native flora and reducing the natural biodiversity. Native animals may also be affected due to the loss of their natural habitat.

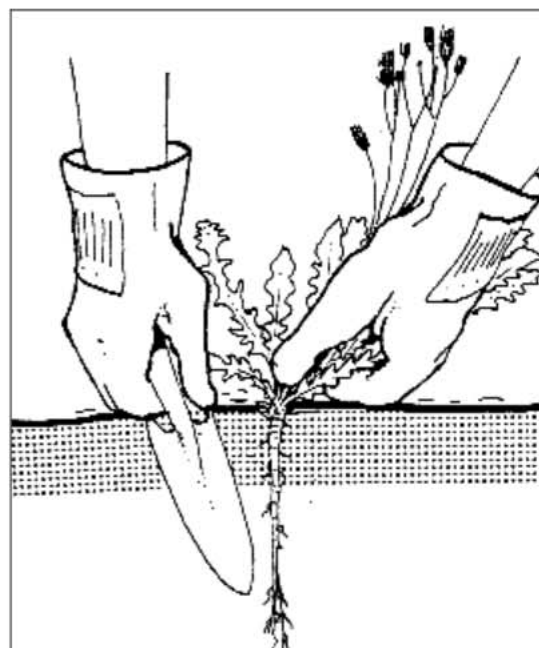
#### Control

Seed heads should be carefully cut out and bagged prior to removing the plant or applying herbicide.

Small infestations of Cobbler's Pegs may be pulled out by hand (see diagram below) being careful to remove the roots as well. Larger infestations may be sprayed with a Glyphosate based herbicide. Follow-up control is necessary, as seed may lay dormant in the ground for up to 5 years.



Young green leaves, yellow flowers and hooked seeds of Cobbler's Pegs. Source: Sydney Weeds Committees



Hand pull method. Source: Sydney Weeds Committees

#### Further Information

For further information please contact Environmental Services on 9748 9999.

#### References

*Weed Facts* Sutherland Shire Council  
[www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au)

*Cobbler's Pegs* Sydney Weeds Committees  
[www.sydneyweeds.org.au](http://www.sydneyweeds.org.au)