



# WANTED

## TAGASASTE

### *Chamaecytisus palmensis*

#### Glossary

##### Fodder

Food substitute for cattle.

##### Leaflets

One of the segments of a compound leaf.

##### Pubescent Pods

Pods covered with short, soft hairs.

#### For More Information

##### Contact

Eastern Hills Catchment  
Management Program  
Tel: (08) 9424 2222

Shire of Mundaring  
Bushcare Co-ordinator  
Tel: (08) 9290 6685

Shire of Kalamunda  
Bushcare Co-ordinator  
Tel: (08) 9257 9936

#### Introduction

Was once known as *Cytisus proliferus*, and is also known as Tree Lucerne, it was introduced as a hedge plant and as a supplementary fodder tree for farm stock and for land rehabilitation.

The species has adapted well to Australian conditions and is now found on farms, disturbed bushland, roadsides, creeks and sometimes invades native bushland. It has naturalised in almost all areas where it has been planted.

#### Origin

Canary Islands.

#### Status

Priority weed species for the Shire of Mundaring.

#### Lifeform

Shrub/tree.

#### Description

Tagasate is a bushy; erect; large shrub/small tree; up to 6 metres tall with drooping, soft-hairy branches and leaves.

**Leaves:** Greyish/green; 3 leaflets; softly-hairy; 10-45 mm long.

**Flowers:** White/cream/yellow; pea-shaped; scented; 12-17 mm wide.

#### Reproduction & Dispersion

It is a very hardy and a prolific seeder, producing exploding seed pods. The seeds are viable in the for up to 10 years. Seedlings rarely establish in dense shade.

#### Growing Habit

Readily forms large thickets, displacing other vegetation

#### Distribution

Perth - Albany, scattered population in Geraldton.

#### Flowering Season

June—October

#### Fruits

Pubescent Pods; 5 cm long-carrying approx. 10 seeds.

#### Effect on Ecosystem

Tagasaste fixes nitrogen, thus increasing soil fertility, allowing weeds to dominate. The species is so prolific that

it soon displaces native vegetation.

#### Control

##### Manual Removal

Seedlings and small plants may be removed by handpulling. Larger bushes and trees need to be cut down with secateurs or saws or burnt and the stumps treated with herbicides.

Regrowth and seedlings need to be treated or grazed. Grazing can provide effective control by ring barking the trees. Stands can be slashed to stimulate seed germination for follow up control.

##### Chemical Treatment

Plants can be treated using basal bark method.

Replant native species at least 12 months after the last spray and hand weed any seedlings as they appear.

Please see 'Herbicides and Pesticides' factsheet for more information about spraying chemicals.



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