

Hudson Pear (White-spined)

(*Cylindropuntia pallida*) (syn. *C. rosea*)

July 2016



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Hudson Pear is part of the *Cylindropuntia* group of cacti which are named for their cylindrical (rope like) branching segments and shrubby or tree like form.

It is a declared weed under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (NRM Act). This declaration also includes Jumping Cholla.

Background

Hudson Pear is a close relative of the well-known Prickly Pear that became a household name during the 1920s when infestations in NSW and QLD spread to cover a range of over 24 million hectares.

However, by the mid-1930s, through the use of biological control (biocontrol) insects, Prickly Pear had been brought under control.

There is currently no known biocontrol agent for Hudson Pear.

Description

Hudson Pear is a low, spreading shrub, 0.5–1 m tall and up to 3 m wide. Old plants can develop trunks, but they are not commonly seen.

It has deciduous, grey to pale green stem segments, between 4.5–26 cm long and the flowers are pink-red in colour. Its fruits are oblong to egg shaped to 3 cm long and green to yellow-green.

The spines are white and 1–4 cm long in groups of 7–14 spines.

Risk

Risk assessments conducted by Biosecurity SA rank Hudson Pear as high risk to health and the natural environment.

In 2010 a closely related group of plants called Opuntioidei cacti were nominated to become a Weed of National Significance by the natural resources management boards of South Australia. This classification now ensures that all Australian states are committed to tackling Opuntioidei cacti as a strategic priority.

Impacts

Hudson Pear can limit access and impact on human and animal health. It can degrade grazing land and contaminate wool. Despite Hudson Pear being declared and prohibited for sale in all six mainland states and territories, there has been incidents of people illegally selling these plants through the backyard nursery trade, online sales and local markets.





(White-spined) Hudson Pear (*Cylindropuntia pallida*) (syn. *C. rosea*).
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Distribution

Cylindropuntia's have the potential to spread across many areas of South Australia. Within the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region, scattered plants have been identified and controlled, and are being monitored.

Along the River Murray from Waikerie to Mannum naturalised populations of (White-spined) Hudson Pear are present along the river corridor, and pose a risk to human health, tourism, agriculture and the natural environment.

In the Gammon Ranges and Arkaroola Wilderness Area naturalised populations of Jumping Cholla (a similar high-risk cactus) are present on the escarpments, and pose a risk to human health, tourism, and the natural environment.

Control methods

The most cost effective way of protecting SA from invasive weeds is through rapid detection and early control, prioritising assets of greatest value.

In urban and rural settings where the plants are infrequent and scattered, the primary response to control Hudson Pear is hand removal and chemical application.

There are currently no biocontrol agents available in Australia for Hudson Pear.



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Declarations

The following sections of the NRM Act apply to all *Cylindropuntia* spp. including Hudson Pear, Jumping Cholla and Rope Cactus in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region:

- S175 (1) Cannot import the plant into South Australia**
- S175 (2) Cannot transport the plant, or any material or equipment containing that plant on a public road**
- S177 (1)(2) Cannot sell the plant or any produce/goods carrying the plant**
- S182 (2) Landowner must control the plant on their land**
- S185 NRM authority may recover costs for control of weeds on roadsides from adjoining landowners**

More information

Please contact your local Natural Resources Centre for further information, advice and assistance in controlling Hudson Pear, Jumping Cholla and Rope Cactus.

Black Hill

115 Maryvale Road, Athelstone 5076
T: 08 8336 0901

Gawler

8 Adelaide Road, Gawler South 5118
T: 08 8523 7700

Willunga

5 Aldinga Road, Willunga 5172
T: 08 8550 3400