

# 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
Tiger pear	<i>Dactylopius opuntiae</i>	Cochineal

### Distributing biological 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 or Biosafe 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 (Qld only).

## 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



**Access<sup>®</sup>**  
**HERBICIDE**



# Cacti



Harrisia cactus (*Harrisia martinii*)



Prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*)



Snake cactus (*Cylindropuntia spinosior*)



Smooth tree pear (*O. monacantha*)



Tiger pear (*O. aurantiaca*)



Tree pear (*O. tomentosa*)

## 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® Herbicide	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙	⚙	⚙
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	✗	✗	⚙	⚙	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙	✗	✗	✗

### KEY:

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

## Herbicides for control of cacti

Product	Method of application	Rate <sup>†</sup>	Harrisia cactus	Prickly pear (common)	Snake cactus	Smooth tree pear	Tiger pear	Tree pear
Access® Herbicide	Foliar spray	1:60 with diesel or Biosafe <sup>§</sup>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Garlon® 600 Herbicide	Foliar spray	1:75 with diesel distillate		✓		✓	✓	
Garlon® 600 Herbicide	Foliar spray	3 L/100 L of water		✓			✓	
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	500 mL/100 L of water		✓		✓		
Tordon® RegrowthMaster Herbicide	Foliar spray	1:40 with water	✓					
Access® Herbicide	Basal bark	1:60 with diesel or Biosafe <sup>§</sup>	✓					

<sup>†</sup> Consult label for details of growth stage and use, especially where range of rates is given. <sup>§</sup> Biosafe – trademark used under licence, Victorian Chemical Co Pty Ltd.



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