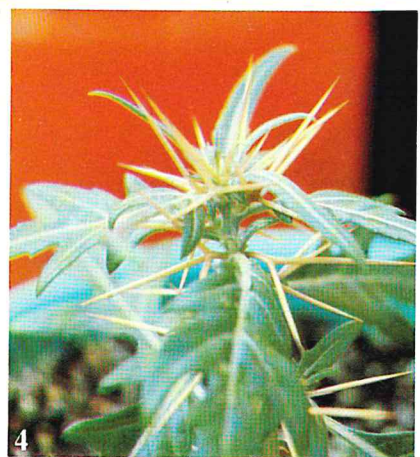
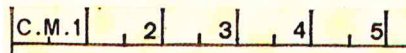


BATHURST BURR



1 Bathurst burr plant 2 leaves, burrs
3 Bathurst burr in wool 4 Spines.

Bathurst burr is a summer growing weed which has a major impact on the wool industry in eastern Australia. It grows on the Western Australian Goldfields, but must be prevented from spreading any further in this State. Isolated patches are often found in Agricultural areas after summer rainfall. The burrs tangle readily in wool and are costly to remove, thus significantly reducing returns to

woolgrowers. The weed can also be troublesome in irrigated crops. Bathurst burr is a native of South America, although it is now widespread in the world. It was probably introduced to Australia tangled in the tails of horses imported from Chile in the 1840's. Bathurst burr is a declared plant (noxious weed) in Western Australia. Rigid inspections are maintained of all imported livestock, wool and

agricultural produce to prevent burrs being brought into the State.

Description:

Bathurst burr is an annual plant. The branched stem can reach a metre high but is generally from 30 to 60 cm high. Curved spines, greenish yellow in colour are formed in the angles between the leaf and stem and at joints (nodes) on the stems. These spines are three-pronged and about

(continued overleaf)

BATHURST BURR

(continued)

25 mm in length. The leaves are divided into three lobes, with the centre lobe much larger than the other two. The upper surface of the leaves is hairy and dark green with prominent veins, while the under surface is pale green with downy hairs.

Flowering begins in January and continues through the autumn. Bathurst burr flowers are small and inconspicuous. Male flowers occur at the tops of the stems and female

ones lower down. The egg shaped, straw coloured burrs are formed from the female flowers. The burrs, about 12 mm long, are armed with numerous hooked spines.

Bathurst burr reproduces only from seed. The seeds are produced in each burr. The seeds are brown in colour, flattened and about 9 mm long. One usually germinates in the first spring or summer, but the other generally doesn't germinate for two or three years. Some seeds can remain dormant for up to eight years. Bathurst burr is generally summer growing, but some mature plants can be found at most times of the year, which makes control more

difficult.

Bathurst burr is spread mainly by its hooked burrs which cling firmly to the wool, fur, tails and manes of animals, and to bags, wool packs and clothing. It can also be spread by water or with the seeds of summer crops such as maize. Prompt action is essential to eradicate isolated patches of Bathurst burr to prevent the weed getting established in new areas of Western Australia.

Suspect plants should be reported to the Agriculture Protection Board, telephone Perth 367 0111 or any country officer of the Agriculture Protection Board or Department of Agriculture.