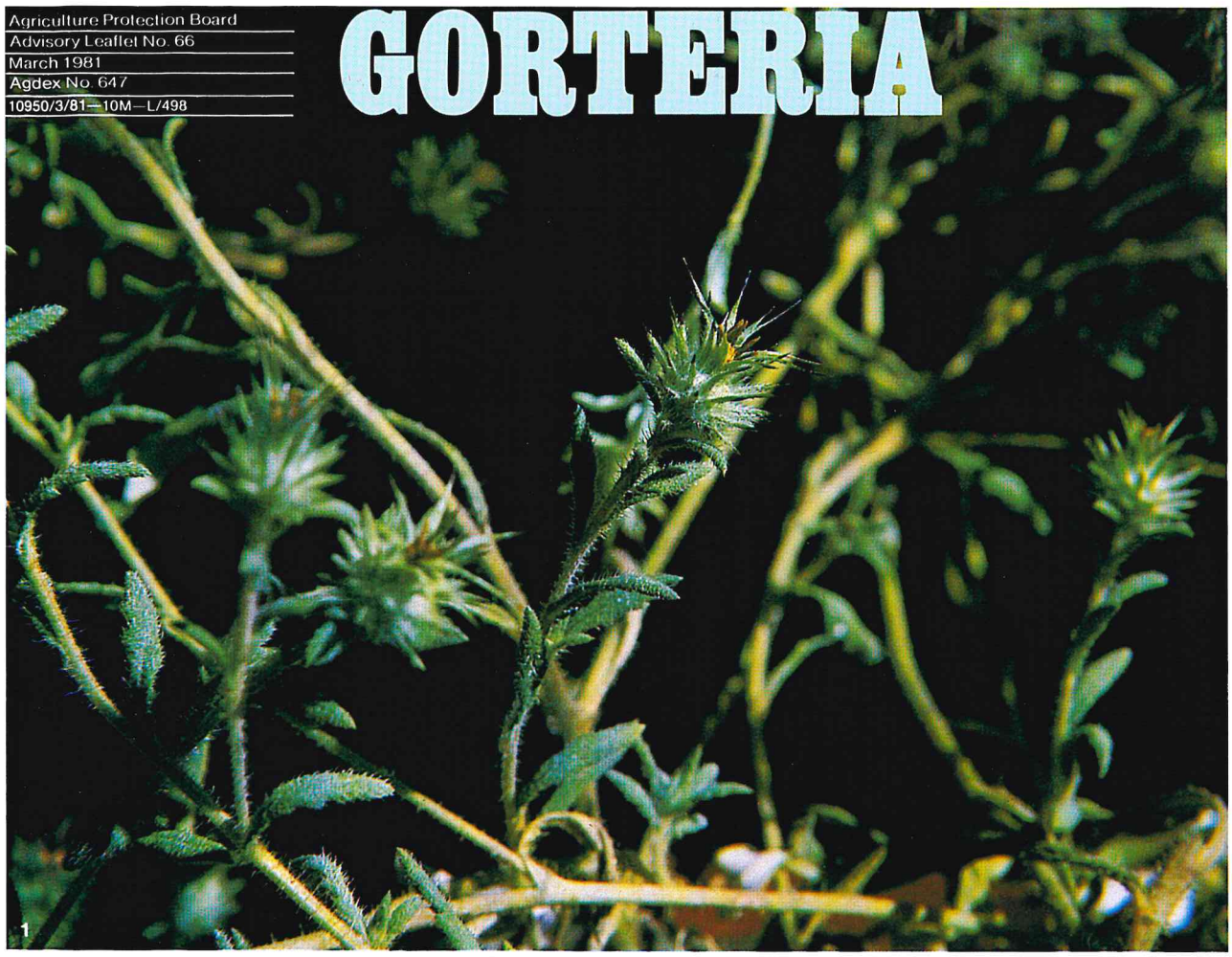


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Advisory Leaflet No. 66  
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# GORTERIA



1. Mature plant 2. Flower 3. Seedling 4. Burr

(continued over)

# GORTERIA

**G**orteria (*Gorteria personata*) is a member of the Compositae family which includes other weedy species such as Thistle, Ragwort, etc. Gorteria is a native of South Africa. It was first identified in Australia near Moora in 1964. Other isolated outbreaks have since been found elsewhere in the wheatbelt.

Gorteria is a declared plant (noxious weed) throughout Western Australia.

**Significance:**

Gorteria could compete with more valuable pasture plants. The dry seed heads have very tough spines which could cause severe vegetable fault in wool.

**Description:**

Gorteria is a herbaceous plant 0.3-0.4 m high with woody stems and spreading branches. The leaves are about 8 cm long, the surfaces are dark green above and light green below and the edges are deeply lobed or toothed. Each leaf has a broad flat petiole (leaf stalk).

Both stems and leaves are covered with rigid hairs and feel rough to the touch.

The flowers are small and yellow.

They are surrounded by green bracts and occur at the ends of the stems.

After flowering the heads harden to form a hard spiny burr containing up to eight seeds.

**Ecology:**

Gorteria is an annual plant, germinating in winter and flowering in the late spring. The burrs fall to the ground and may be carried by animals, on wool or on machinery. Seeds may remain dormant in the soil for several years.

It is essential to prevent the further spread of Gorteria in Western Australia.

*For advice on Gorteria recognition and control, contact the*

*Agriculture Protection Board telephone (09) 367 0111 or any country officer of the Agriculture Protection Board or the Department of Agriculture.*