

Prickly pear - *Opuntia stricta*

Form: Sprawling many-jointed hairless blue-green cactus usually 1-1.5m tall.

Leaves: Absent, replaced by brownish bristles at the areoles and occasional yellow-brown spines 2-4cm long.

Flowers: Summer. Bright yellow funnel-shaped multi-petalled flowers 6-8cm wide with greenish bases.

Fruits: Summer and autumn. Purple berries 5-7cm long with a deep cavity at the tip, with white pulp and small dark red seeds. Seeds spread by birds and animals.

Impacts: Usually slight since usually well controlled by *Cactoblastis cactorum* caterpillars. Conspicuous exotic. Class 1 Declared Plant (June 2010).

Control: Pull or dig out small plants and hang in trees etc. to dry out. Spot spray, basal bark or stem inject with herbicide. See DPI Fact Sheet for current herbicide recommendations.

Ongoing management: Check area every third year and control new and regenerating plants before flowering.

