

Velvety tree pear - *Opuntia tomentosa*

Form: Erect branched dark green jointed cactus 2-5m tall developing a woody central trunk, joints velvety between spines.

Leaves: Absent, replaced by bristles at the areoles with or without several whitish spines 1-2cm long.

Flowers: Summer. Orange multi-petalled tubular flowers 4-8cm long.

Fruits: Summer and autumn. Dull red oval berries c. 5cm long with very fine spines, reddish pulp and small black seeds. Seeds spread by birds and animals.

Impacts: Usually slight. Conspicuous exotic. Class 2 Declared Plant (June 2010).

Control: Biological - place joints infested with cochineal mealy-bugs from other plants into the cactus. Pull or dig out small plants and hang in trees etc. to dry out. Basal bark, cut stump and poison or inject with herbicides. See DPI Fact Sheet for current herbicide recommendations.

Ongoing management: Check area every third or fourth year and control new and regenerating plants.

