

BIOSECURITY ALERT

Parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L. – Asteraceae)

Parthenium (Demoina weed) is a category 1 plant (declared weed) in South Africa, which makes it illegal to grow it anywhere in the country.

Parthenium invades disturbed areas such as overgrazed or drought affected pastures, roadsides and dumpsites which then act as sources of further infestation.

Parthenium releases phytotoxic compounds from its roots and from decaying plant residues allowing it to suppress other plants.



Photographs ~ Stephen Adkins, University of Queensland, Australia

Parthenium is noxious and unpalatable to herbivores; it replaces rangeland palatable grasses and adversely affects animal health, damaging milk and meat quality. Manual removal is difficult because it may cause dermatitis, allergies and asthma.

For more information,
please contact your local
Extension Specialist

