

Seen this plant?

Prairie Ground Cherry

Physalis hederifolia



How does this weed affect us?

Prairie ground cherry has been deemed a biosecurity threat and classed as a Priority Weed in NSW. It is regulated with the management goal of **ERADICATION** in the Riverina.

Prairie ground cherry forms dense infestations in pastures, crops and roadsides, reducing available fodder and displacing desirable species.

- The berries are eaten by livestock, birds and other animals, germination is enhanced after seeds pass through animals.
- The fruit are also spread by wind and water.
- Small pieces of root can reshoot. These may be spread by cultivation equipment and in contaminated hay.

Seen it? Call us:

Cootamundra-Gundagai
Biosecurity Officer:

1300 459 689

NSW DPI Biosecurity
Helpline:

1800 680 244

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:

weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/PrairieGroundCherry



Where are you likely to find it?

Most infestations in NSW are in the Murray region. There are also infestations in the Central West, Riverina (Gundagai) and Western Regions.

What does it look like?

Prairie ground cherry is a summer-growing perennial 25 to 60 cm high with an extensive root system. The leaves are light green and have wavy margins. The leaves near the base of the plant are up to 5 cm long and 3 cm wide. The leaves higher up are 3 cm long and 1 cm wide. The flowers are **small** pale yellow and bell-shaped. The fruit are orange coloured berries inside a 10 sided bladder-like case.

- **Leaves** are light green, alternate but with upper leaves often in opposite pairs. They are almost hairless on the leaf surface but with short hairs on margins and veins. Leaves are 6cm long, 4cm wide (commonly 4 to 5cm long and 3cm wide) with undulating margins.
- **Flowers** are yellow, bell-shaped and 2 to 3 cm in diameter. They have 10 angled calyx and 5 petals that are fused. These are produced on stalks in axils of upper leaves.
- **Fruit** of prairie ground cherry is an orange coloured globular berry when ripe, 1 to 1.5 cm in diameter, sticky and enclosed in a **bladder-like** case of about 2 to 2.5 cm in diameter.



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