WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Table of Contents

1 PROJECT AND COMMITMENT 2

1.1 Context 2

1.2 Project Background 3

1.3 Objectives 4

2 WEED SPECIES 4

3 SCOPE 8

3.1 Hazards and Potential Impacts 8

3.2 Legislation and Standards 8

3.3 Targets 8

3.4 Performance Indicators 8

4 WEED MANAGEMENT MEASURES 8

4.1 Prevention 8

4.2 Control 9

4.3 Reporting 10

5 RESPONSIBILITIES 10

6 WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY 11

7 CONTROL AND REVISION HISTORY 12

7.1 Document information 12

7.2 Revisions 12

7.3 Read by 12

8 APPENDIX 1 – WEED INSPECTION TEMPLATE 13

1 PROJECT AND COMMITMENT

1.1 Context

Prodigy Gold NL (Prodigy Gold) is an exploration company located in Darwin, Northern Territory with an extensive portfolio of tenements in the Greater Tanami region of the Northern Territory (Figure 1).

This Weed Management Plan (Weed MP) has been prepared by Prodigy Gold in support of the Company's Authorisations to undertake exploration work on tenements held in the Greater Tanami Region.

This Weed MP describes the framework employed by Prodigy Gold for management of weeds and introduced flora on site, including safeguards and controls developed to ensure environmental impacts are minimised and outlines monitoring procedures and environmental management throughout the project areas.

The Weed MP will be reviewed regularly to maintain relevance to all aspects of the project as part of the Prodigy Gold's review of its Mining Management Plans within the Greater Tanami Region.

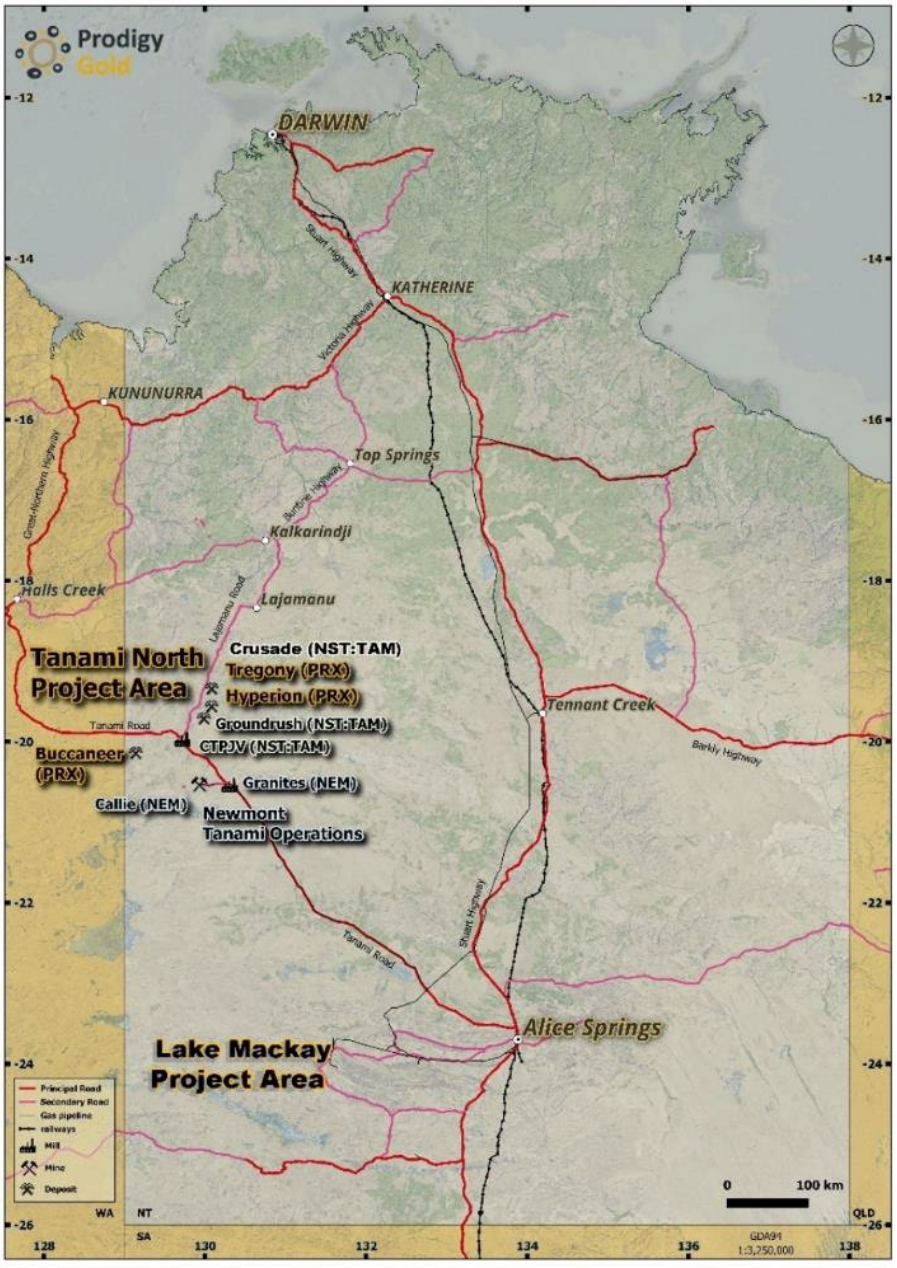


Figure 1 Regional location of Prodigy Gold's projects.

1.2 Project Background

Prodigy Gold's project areas are located NW of Alice Springs (Figure 1) and to the east of the Northern Territory and Western Australian border. The site is accessed from east and west by the Tanami Road, which runs Northwest from Alice Springs to the Northern Territory and Western Australian border (Figure 2). The project areas can also be accessed Lajamanu Road which heads south from the community of Lajamanu which is north of the Tregony camp.

Prodigy Gold is active in the Tanami Region of the Northern Territory. The Tanami Region is divided into several sub-projects each with its own Mining Management Plan or plan in preparation. Those sub-projects are shown in Figure 2 and noted as:

- Tanami North Project area (Previously Suplejack Project)
- Hyperion Project area
- Tanami Project area – Currently included in the Stockton Mining Sales agreement.
- Lake Mackay Project area

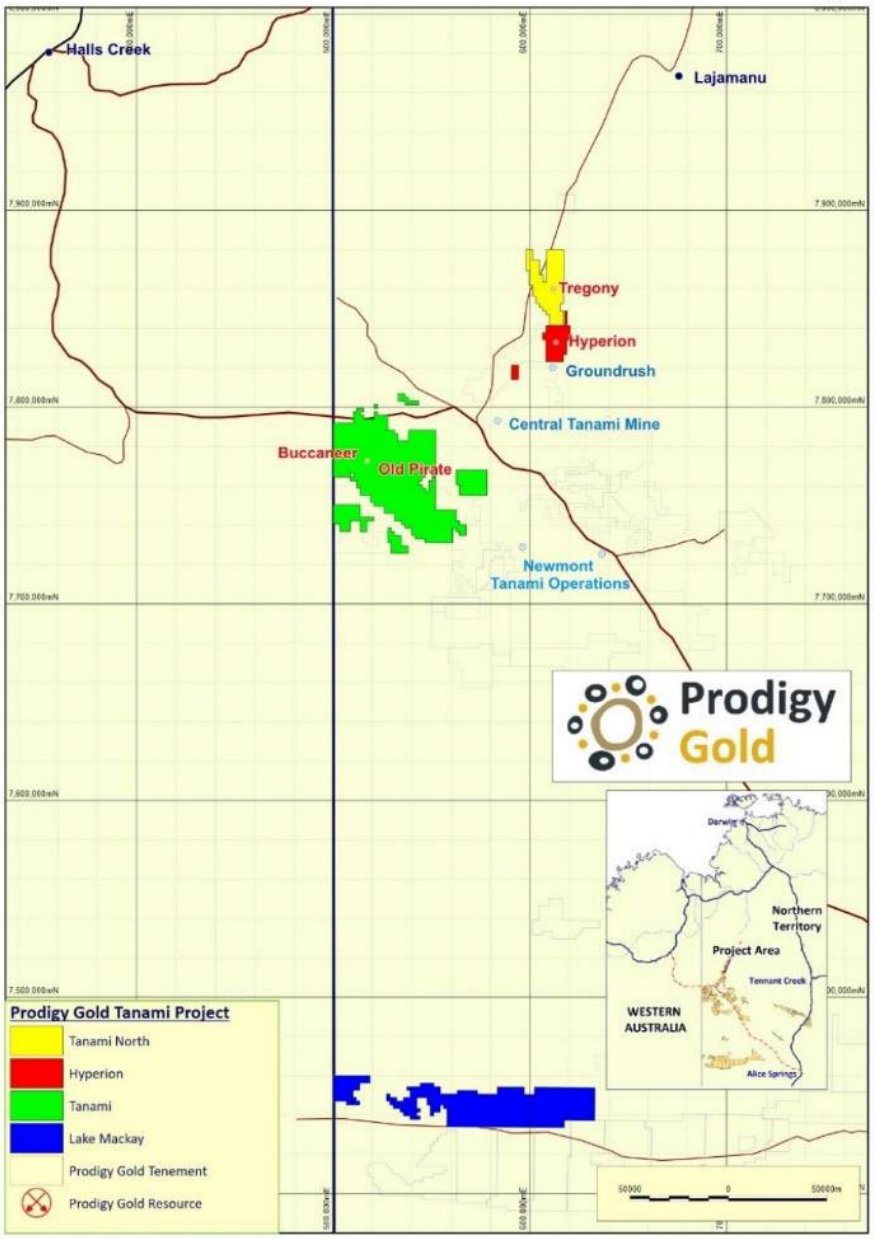


Figure 2 Prodigy Gold's Tanami Projects

1.3 Objectives

Prodigy Gold is a gold focused exploration company with tenure and activities occurring within the Tanami Region Northern Territory.

As part of ongoing exploration activities, equipment and freight moves occur between project areas. If not managed the introduction and spread of weeds across the project areas can threaten natural ecosystems by out competing native species, changing water quality, and changing fire regimes. To prevent these impacts and other potential effects of weeds on the environment Prodigy Gold is committed to:

- Preventing the spread of established weeds within project areas and to prevent introduction of additional weed species to the project area.
- Manage any weed populations adjacent to camps and to minimise disturbance to areas of declared weeds.

Operational areas are focused in the Tanami Region of the Northern Territory, see Figure 2. The aim of this plan is to reduce the risk of weeds and guide the management of weeds across all project areas.

2 WEED SPECIES

Under the *Weeds Management Act* (2001), weeds are divided into the following classes:

1. Class A: To be eradicated.
2. Class B: Growth and spread to be controlled.
3. Class C: Not to be introduced.
4. Class D – to prevent the spread of the plant through actions of persons.

All Class A and B declared weeds are also automatically Class C declared weeds, which means they are not to be introduced to the Northern Territory. Class B/C weeds are to be subject to continuing control measures to prevent their spread. Reasonable attempts must be made to contain the growth and prevent the movement of these plants. Class D is a new addition to the Act around the prevention of the spreading of weeds.

Prodigy Gold's Tanami North, Hyperion, and Tanami Projects are within the Tanami Bioregion, with the Lake Mackay project within the Great Sandy Desery Bioregion, see Figure 3. According to the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) there are twelve noted weeds currently listed under the Northern Territory *Weeds Management Act 2001* are known to occur within the Greater Tanami within (or within 10km) of the Prodigy Gold Projects. Of these there are 6 declared weeds in close proximity to Prodigy Gold projects. These weeds are described in table 1 below and shown in Figures 4 & 5.

Descriptions of the declared weeds can be found in Appendix 2, with fact sheets available for use by Prodigy Gold staff and contractors as required.

Table 1 Noted weeds from within or close proximity to Prodigy Gold projects with Tanami and Great Sandy Desert Bioregions (Note: Bold are declared weeds with non-bold noted weeds).

			Projects			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Class**	**Tanami North**	**Hyperion**	**Tanami**	**Lake Mackay**
Buffel Grass	*Cenchrus ciliaris*	*NA*	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mossman river grass	***Cenchrus echinatus***	***B C***				**Y**
Caltrop	***Tribulus terrestris***	***B C***				**Y**
Lovegrass	*Eragrostis*	*NA*		Y		Y
Barnyard grass	*Echinochloa*	*NA*		Y	Y	
Parkinsonia	***Parkinsonia aculeata***	***B C***	**Y**			
Spiny Head	***Sida Acuta***	***B C***	**Y**			
Sheda Grass	*Dichanthium annulatum*	*NA*	Y			
Hyptis	***Hyptis suaveolens***	***B C***	**Y**			
Sabi Grass	*Urochloa mosambicensis*	*NA*		Y		
Rubber Bush	***Calotropis procera***	***B C***	**Y**			
Crab Grass	*Digitaria*	*NA*	Y			

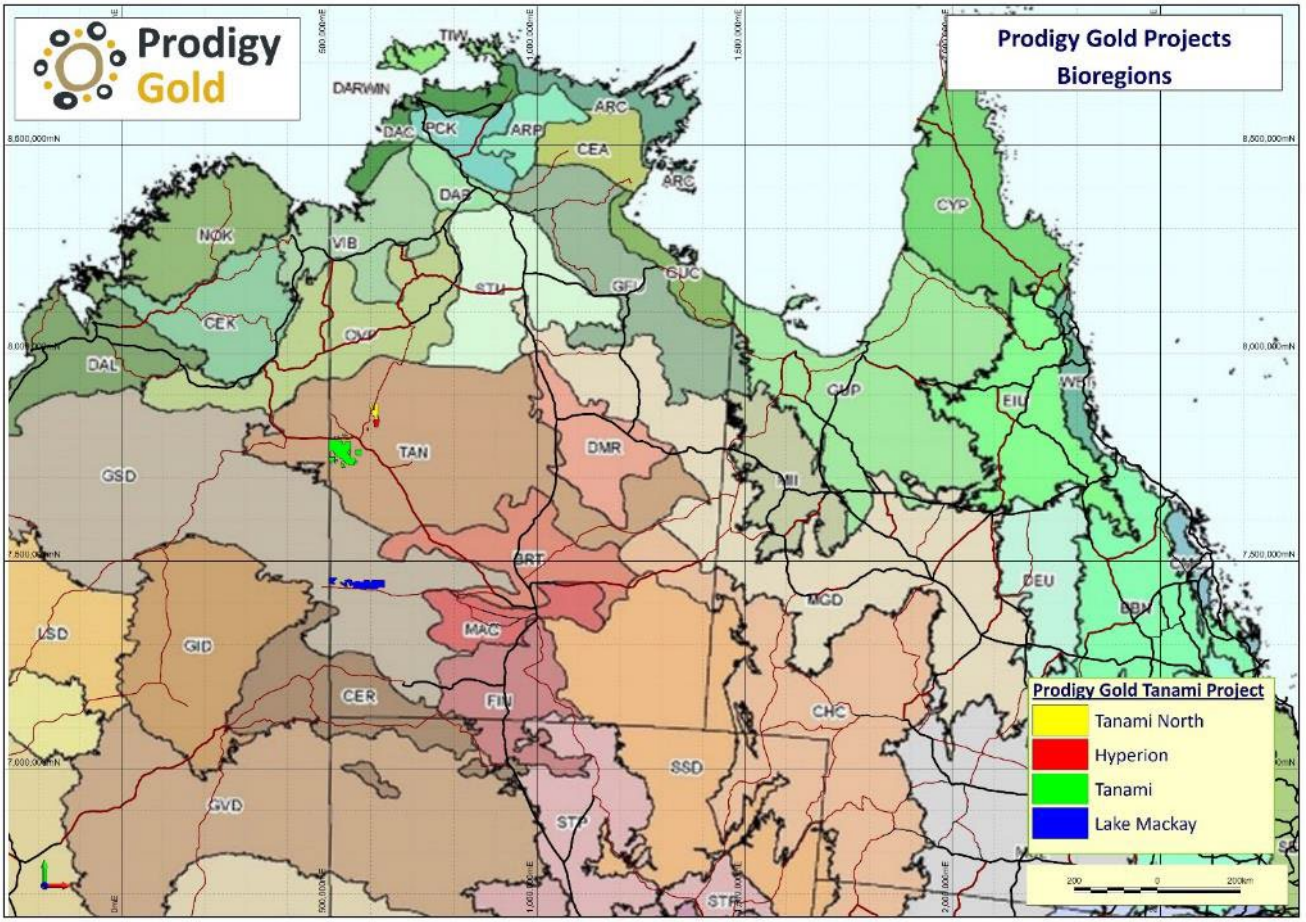


Figure 3 Australian Bioregions

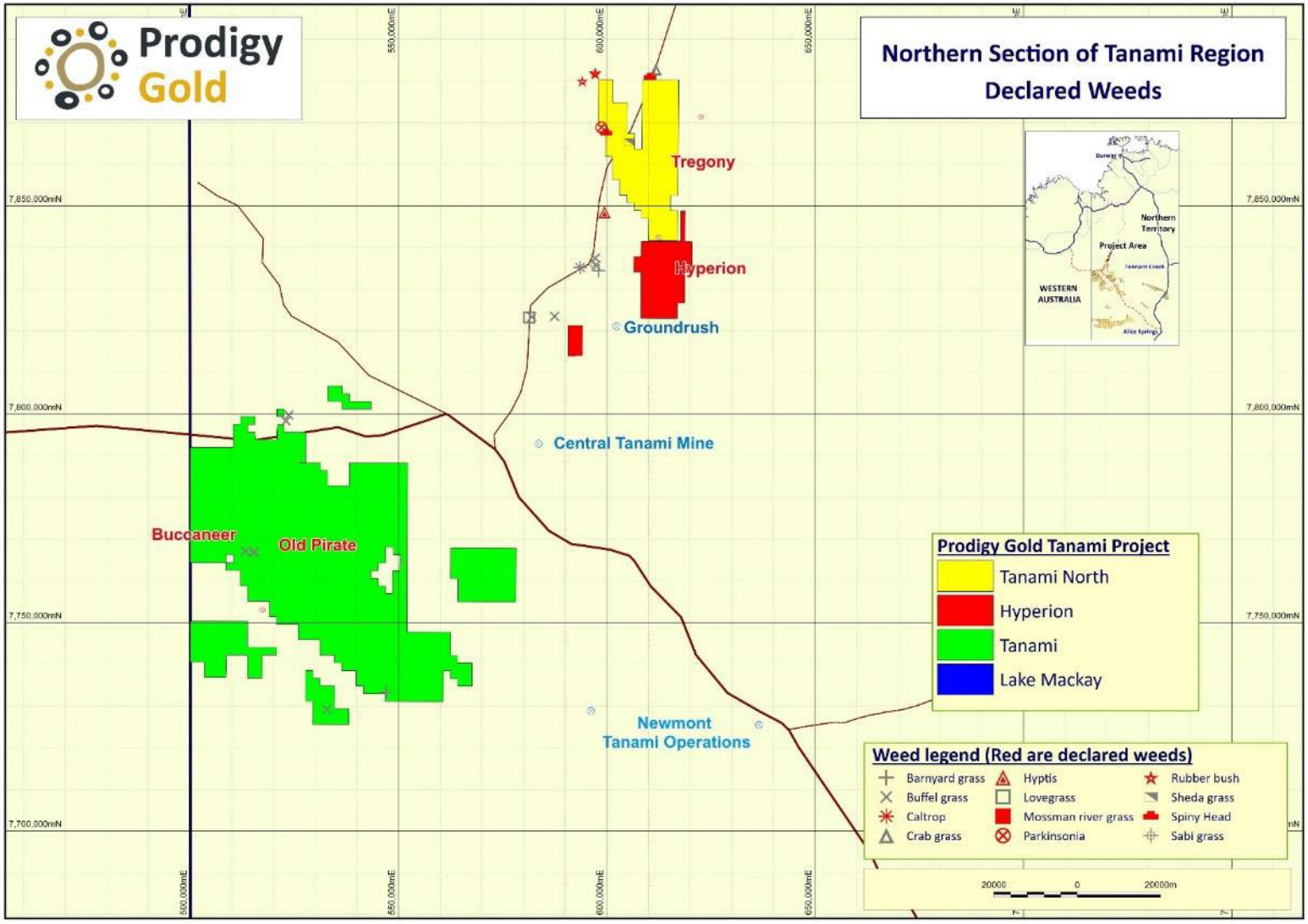


Figure 4 Declared Weeds in Northern Tanami Region

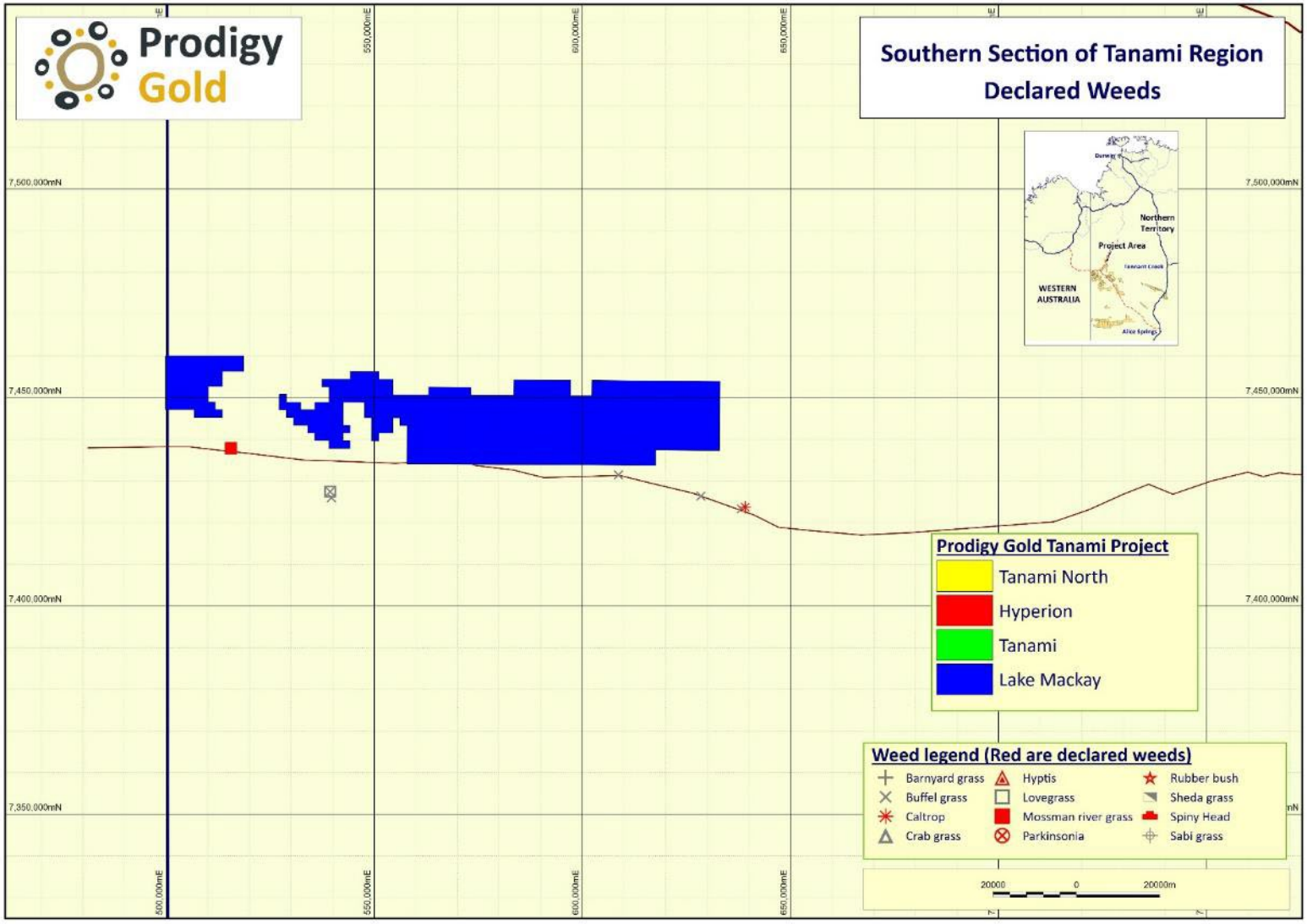


Figure 5 Declared Weeds in Southern Tanami Region

All exploration personnel are provided with the NT Weed ID Deck book (NTRETAS, 2018) which contains most of the declared weeds found in project areas.

3 SCOPE

3.1 Hazards and Potential Impacts

Exploration activities have the potential to introduce weeds and/or increase existing pest populations. The potential impact that these pest species may have on the project area include:

Hazard – unmanaged weed establishment during exploration activities may lead to:

- degradation of threatened species habitat
- altered fire regime (i.e. increase frequencies and intensities).

Exploration activity - vehicle movements during operations may lead to:

- spread of existing or new weeds to the area.

3.2 Legislation and Standards

- *Weeds Management Act 2001* (NT)
- Revised National Weeds Strategy 1999
- *Plant Health Act 2008* (and associated regulations)
- *Alice Springs Weeds Strategy 2021-2026*

3.3 Targets

- No increase in the distribution of existing weed species.
- No introduction of new weed species.
- The continual monitoring of known weeds on and around site.

3.4 Performance Indicators

- No new weed species introduced to the site.
- No increase in the existing populations of known weed species, and where possible a reduction in the populations of known weeds.

4 WEED MANAGEMENT MEASURES

4.1 Prevention

The most effective means to control weeds is to prevent their introduction to a site. To achieve this, the following practices are used:

Staff education

- Educate staff during inductions of the potential to introduce new weeds, especially with the movement of people and machines from different area without adequate cleaning and monitoring.

- Make weed identification information and control handbooks available to all staff and encourage reporting of weed sightings. Contact the Weed Management Branch for updated information on the types of weeds in the region.

Weed Hygiene Procedure:

- Equipment/Vehicles are to be washed or cleaned down prior to entering and moving between sites and if moving from an area of known weed infestation to a weed free area.
- Equipment entering site are inspected and a Weed and Introduces Species Hygiene sheet is completed and filed (Appendix A).
- Equipment/Vehicles that are identified as requiring cleanliness will be cleaned in the designated wash or clean down area and re-inspected. Washdown water to be collected and disposed of to ensure weeds are not left near facilities.
- If equipment moves from an area of known weed infestation to another area it is required to be inspected and undergo thorough cleaning if required. If insufficient water available for washing equipment mud and vegetation should be removed by hand using brushes sticks and/or air hoses.
- Check clothing, hats, socks, cuffs and shoes for seeds and burrs after working in a weed infested area. If required remove seeds and burrs.

Avoidance:

Where possible avoid areas with heavy weed infestations. This will limit the spread of weeds.

Minimise Site Disturbance:

Soil disturbance must be minimised by only clearing the area required and progressively clearing footprints ahead of activities. By minimising disturbance, the opportunity for weed establishment is reduced.

4.2 Control

If weeds are identified at an area that is the result of Prodigy Gold's activities the following steps will be completed.

Define and Map:

- Define the area of extent of the weed occurrence and associated control program.
- Record the GPS locations (MGA 94) of the weed occurrences, weed name, size of infestation and density (i.e. number of the plants).
- Send data to Exploration Manager or delegate to record within the weed register.
- Report the weed occurrence to the Weed Management Branch, as per *Weeds Management Act 2001* (NT), within 14 days, if the weed is new to the area.

Planning weed control:

Choose the method of treatment either chemical or mechanical for each identified weed species. If weeds can be isolated and removed by hand and disposed of this should be done. A number of common weeds can be controlled by Glyphosate (i.e. Roundup Bioactive). For further details on chemical control either consult the *"Northern Territory Weed Management Handbook"* located at www.nt.gov.au/environment/weeds that provides control options for a number of weed species or consult with Weed Management Branch.

Chemical control:

- Read the SafeWork Procedure.
- Use the most appropriate chemical.
- Read instructions to ensure appropriate application rates and protective clothing is worn.
- Apply the chemical during suit weather conditions (i.e. do not spray during rain)
- MSDS sheets are kept for chemicals, and they are stored and transported in the recommended manner.
- Ensure only the weeds are sprayed and not surrounding vegetation.
- If possible, plant material should be removed and placed in a sealed double plastic bag. The plastic bag requires burial or encapsulation.

***Mechanical control*:**

- In cases where plants can be removed by hand, plant material should be placed in a sealed double plastic bag.
- All plant material placed in a plastic bag needs to be buried to a depth of at least 0.5 metres.
- If tools (eg. shovels) are used to remove the weeds check for the presence of seeds and clean if required.

***Monitoring*:**

- Areas of weed infestation that are undergoing weed management require monitoring to ensure no re-growth. Monitoring frequency and duration should reflect the potential seed viability.
- Areas to be disturbed in the vicinity of the weed occurrence need to be monitored for potential weed germination.
- Designated wash down areas must be monitored after rain events for the germination of any seeds. If weeds germinate refer to the Control section above.

4.3 Reporting

- Any significant sightings of Class A weeds are to be reported to the Alice Springs Weed Officer, Weed Management, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security.
- Review of data and summary of weed management activities in annual Mining Management Plan reporting.

5 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Exploration Manager/Site supervisor or a delegate shall:

- Approve policy and procedure,
- Ensure contactors and staff are aware of the Weed Management Plan and Hygiene requirements, and
- Work with contractors, field and environmental personnel to implement management measures to prevent and control the spread of weeds.

Delegated onsite personnel:

- Ensure contactors and staff are aware of the Weed Management Plan and Hygiene requirements,
- Inspect equipment and complete hygiene checklist (including filing),
- Plan and implement weed management programs,
- Track progress of management measures,
- Monitor the designated wash or clean down area and areas of weed control,
- Educate staff and contractors of weed species and obligations, and
- If required ensure weed management measures are discussed during daily/toolbox meetings.

6 WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

WEED MANAGEMENT	
OBJECTIVES	Prodigy Gold to prevent spread of established weeds within project areas and to prevent introduction of additional weed species to the project area. To manage any weed populations adjacent to major camps and to minimise disturbance to areas of declared weeds.
TARGETS	No increase in the distribution of existing weed species. No introduction of new weed species.
ACTIONS	**Staff education** • Educate staff during inductions of the potential to introduce new weeds. • Make weed identification information and control handbooks available to all staff and encourage reporting of weed sightings. **Weed Hygiene Procedure:** • Equipment/Vehicles are to be washed or cleaned down prior to entering and moving between sites and if moving from an area of known weed infestation to a weed free area. • Equipment entering site are inspected and a Weed and Introduces Species Hygiene sheet is completed and filed. • Equipment/Vehicles that are identified as requiring cleanliness will be cleaned in the designated wash or clean down area and re-inspected. • If equipment moves from an area of known weed infestation to another area it is required to be inspected and undergo thorough cleaning if required. If insufficient water available for washing equipment mud and vegetation should be removed by hand using brushes sticks and/or air hoses. • Check clothing, hats, socks, cuffs and shoes for seeds and burrs after working in a weed infested area. If required remove seeds and burrs. **Avoidance:** • Where possible avoid areas with heavy weed infestations. This will limit the spread of weeds. **Minimise Site Disturbance:** • Soil disturbance must be minimised by only clearing the area required and progressively clearing footprints ahead of activities. By minimising disturbance, the opportunity for weed establishment is reduced. **Controls** If weeds are identified at an area that is the result of Prodigy Gold's activities the following steps will be completed. • Define and map, planning weed control, • Chemical Control, • Mechanical Control

MONITORING	• Areas of weed infestation that are undergoing weed management require monitoring to ensure no re-growth. Monitoring frequency and duration should reflect the potential seed viability. • Areas to be disturbed in the vicinity of the weed occurrence need to be monitored for potential weed germination. • Designated wash down areas must be monitored after rain events for the germination of any seeds. If weeds germinate refer to the Control section above.
REVIEW & REPORTING	• Any significant infestations of Class A weeds are to be reported to Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security. • Review of data and summary of weed management activities in annual Mining Management Plan reporting.

7 CONTROL AND REVISION HISTORY

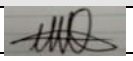
7.1 Document information

PROPERTY	VALUE
Approved by	Managing Director
Document Owner	Project Manager
Effective Date	01/01/2024
Keywords	Weed

7.2 Revisions

VERSION	DATE REVIEWED	REVIEW	NATURE OF THE AMENDMENT
1	30/04/2024		In accordance with the recommendations from the Weed Management Branch
2			
3			
4			

7.3 Read by

	NAME	DATE	SIGNED
1	G. Ferris	15/01/2024	
2	A. Schwartz	30/04/2024	
3			
4			

8 APPENDIX 1 – WEED INSPECTION TEMPLATE

Prodigy Gold	Weed and Introduced Species Hygiene	PRX Operational Areas
Date	Contractor	Contractor Representative
Previous Location of Equipment Usage		

Equipment No	Equipment Details (Please provide detailed information on each type of equipment)	Registration No	Previous work location	Dated Cleaned

Inspection Checklist	Satisfactory	
	Yes	No
Wheel arches, mud flaps, wheel rims, brake assembly		
Base of vehicle/equipment		
Interior of vehicle/equipment		
Check under plates below radiators, if plant material present check under other vehicle sections		
Check under running boards		
Along chasis and chasis joins		
Behind front bull bar, along front vehicle of vehicle, any other cervices on main equipment body work		
Around diff		
Buckets and other ground engaging components on earthmoving equipment (i.e. blades, rippers)		
Tracks and idlers of drilling and/or earthmoving equipment		
Tyre trends		
Tray backs and/or decks (inside and out)		
On top of fuel tanks		

If Cleaning Required	Completed	
	Yes	No
Soil, plant material or introduced species removed		
Soil, plant material or introduced species disposed of in designated areas that can be monitored for infestation		

Vehicle sighted and free of seeds/plant material/species/soil by:	
Name	Position
Signature	Date

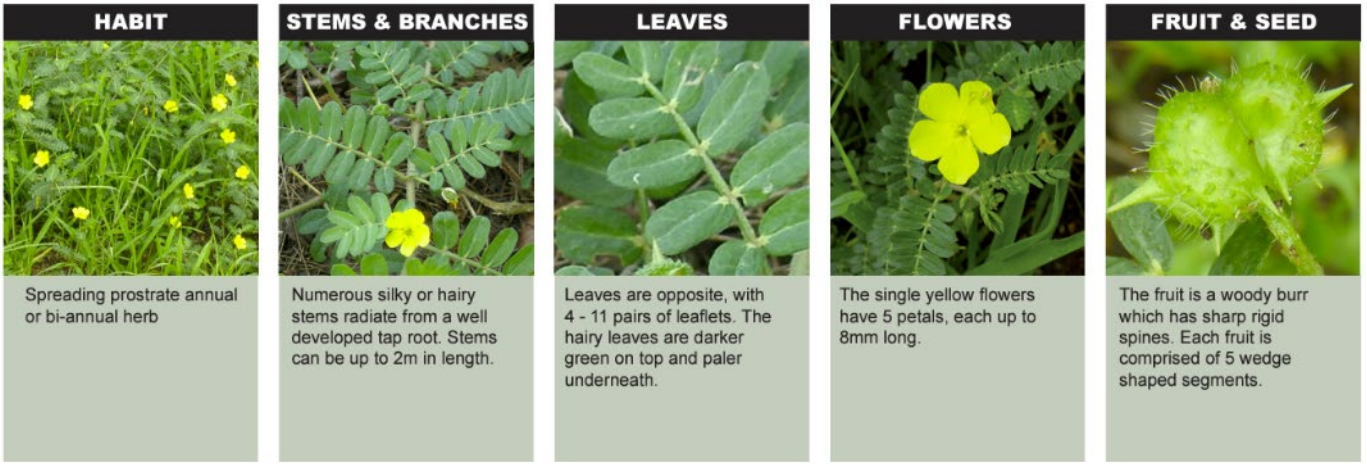
Please place signed copy in the Weed Hygiene Folder located in the Exploration Office

9 APPENDIX 9 – DECLARED WEED DESCRIPTIONS

9.1 MOSSMAN RIVER GRASS

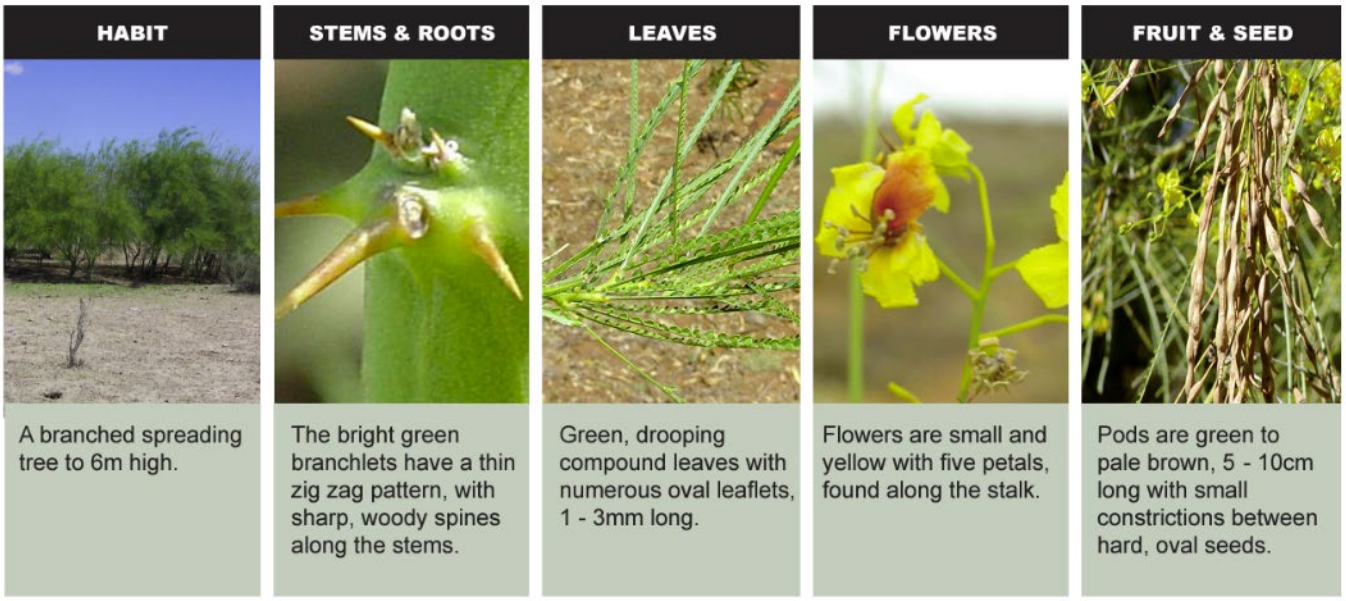
https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/cenchrus_echinatus.htm

9.2 CALTROP



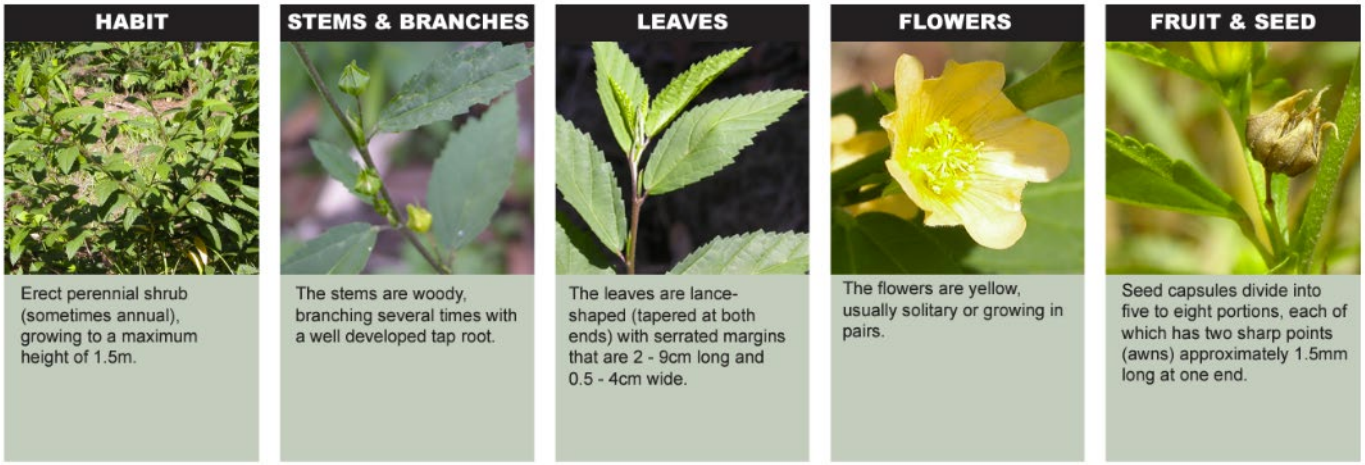
chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://denr.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/407449/Caltrop-ID-sheet-2017.pdf

9.3 Parkinsonia



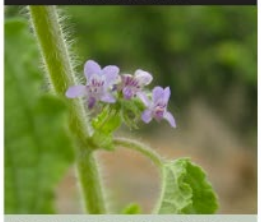
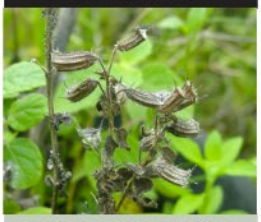
https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weeds-in-the-nt/A-Z-list-of-weeds-in-the-NT/parkinsonia

9.4 Spiny Head



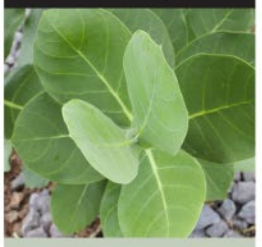
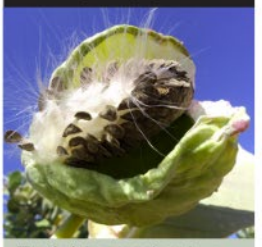
https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/sida_acuta.htm

9.5 Hyptis

HABIT	STEMS & ROOTS	LEAVES	FLOWERS	FRUIT & SEED
				
An annual or perennial, upright, branched plant with a characteristic minty aroma. Plants generally grow to 1 - 1.5m in height, but can reach 2m.	Stems are square. Young plants (pictured) have green stems, covered with fine hairs. Stems on mature plants are unlikely to exceed 5mm in diameter.	Hyptis has hairy, opposite leaves, which are broad at the base, with a pointed tip and have toothed margins. Leaf size varies from 2.5 - 7cm long and 1 - 5cm wide.	Small, lavender-blue flowers occur in clusters in the leaf joints.	Hyptis produces an obvious capsule which is originally green but dries to brown. Each capsule has five stiff bristles. Seeds are dark brown to black in colour, shield-shaped and 3 - 3.5mm wide.

https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weeds-in-the-nt/A-Z-list-of-weeds-in-the-NT/hyptis

9.6 Rubber Bush

HABIT	STEMS & BRANCHES	LEAVES	FLOWERS	FRUIT & SEED
				
Small tree or spreading shrub, generally up to 4m. Branches may shoot from the base of the plant.	Stems are smooth, grey-green when young; mature stems have deeply grooved 'corky' grey bark.	Large, opposite, rubbery grey-green leaves. Each pair of opposite leaves is at right angles to adjacent pairs. Leaves do not have stalks, so appear attached to the stem.	The flowers are purple/ pink and white. The five petals have a waxy feel and appearance. The flowers grow in groups in the upper leaf forks.	The fruit is green in colour and 7 - 12cm long. They are rounded at the base and pointed at the tip, like a mango. The fruit contains small seeds which have long silky hairs to aid dispersal.

https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weeds-in-the-nt/A-Z-list-of-weeds-in-the-NT/rubber-bush