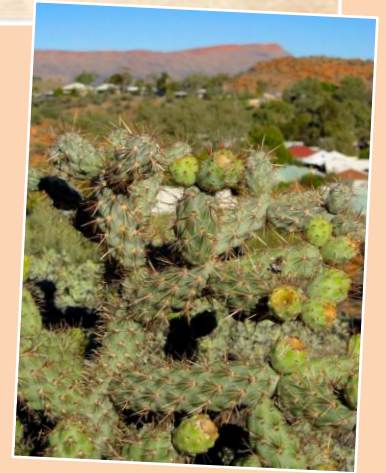


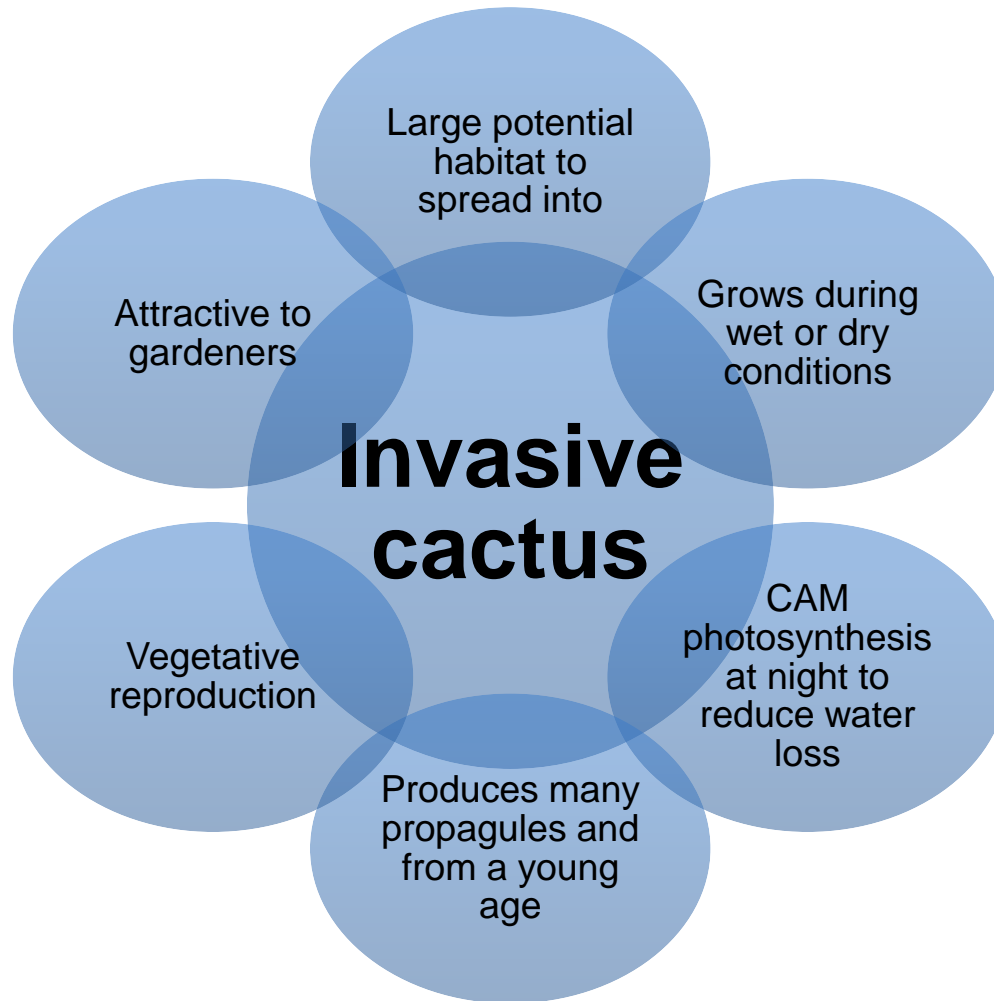
Control of invasive cacti in the Alice Springs region



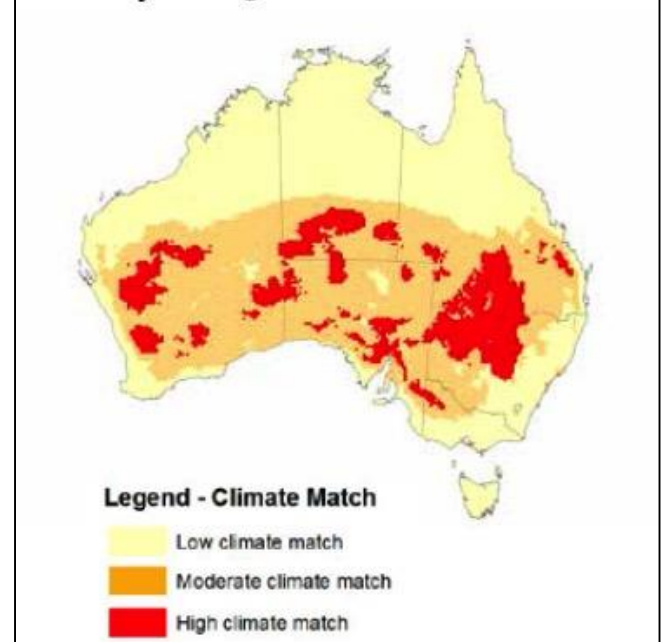
Andy Vinter November 2016



Lets make the perfect arid zone weed



Map 4: Potential distribution of Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia rosea*) in Australia

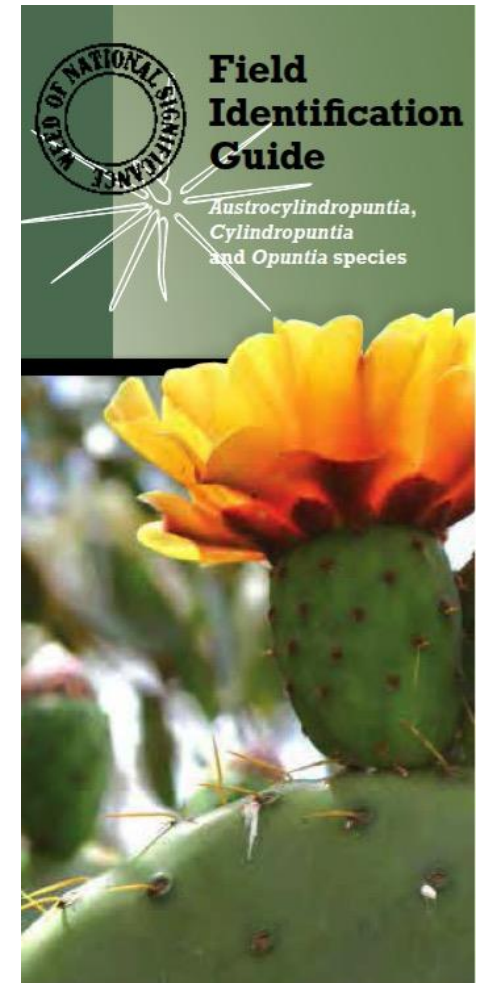


Source: Weed Management Guide Opuntiod Cacti (S.Potter 2011).

Invasive cacti species

The deadly twenty:

- ☪ Weeds of National Significance.
- ☪ Declared Weeds (Class A/C).
- ☪ Rope Cactus and Prickly Pears.



Control of invasive cacti in the Alice Springs region (A.Vinter 2016).

How invasive cacti reproduce



Seed (left):

- ✚ Prickly Pears only.
- ✚ Fruits and seeds are eaten by animals.
- ✚ Edible fruit.



Vegetative parts (right):

- ✚ Rope cactus produce segments.
- ✚ Easily fall off the plant.
- ✚ Spines attach to animals.
- ✚ Any part can grow roots.



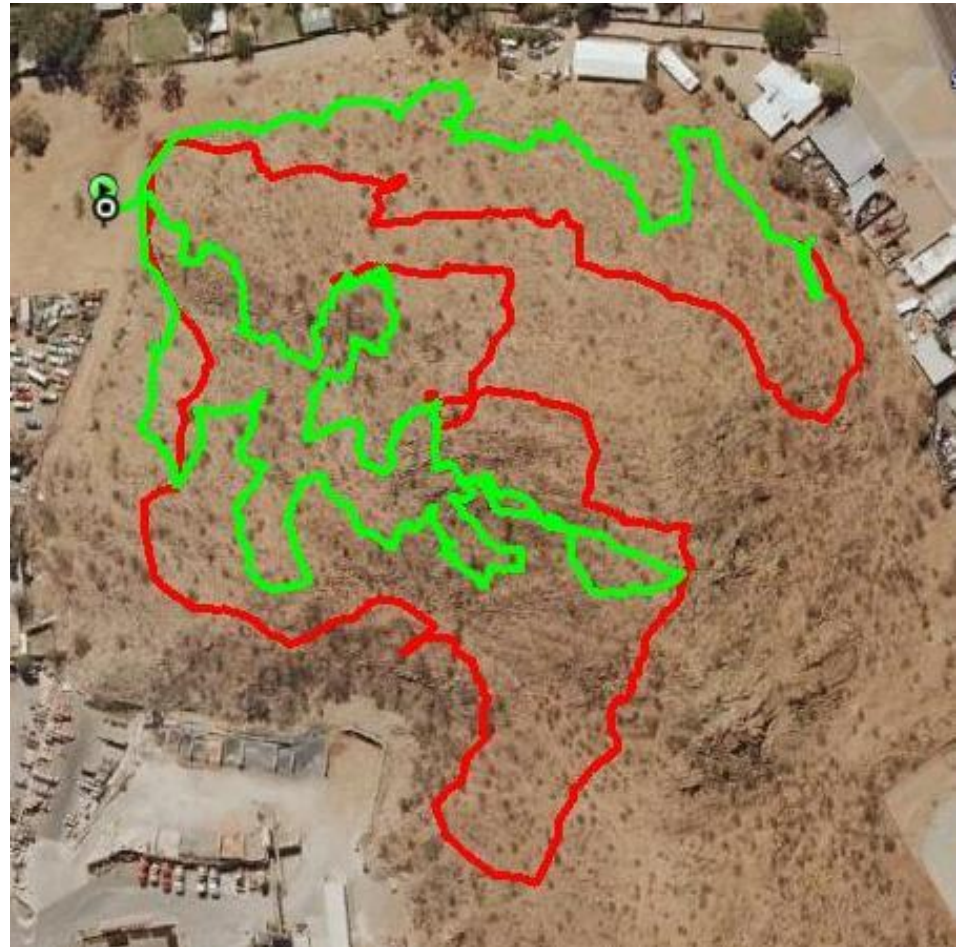
How invasive cactus is spread

- ✚ Planted in home gardens.
- ✚ Escapes into urban bushland.
- ✚ Spreads further into the bush by attachment to animals eg Euros.
- ✚ Rubbish dumping creates 'satellite' infestations.
- ✚ Enters creeks and rivers.
- ✚ Sharing plants spreads cactus into new communities.



Survey and map infestations

Recording cactus waypoints and survey track data.



Treatment options

Treatment options:

- ☪ Foliar spraying
- ☪ Hand removal



Control of invasive cacti in the Alice Springs region (A. Vinter 2016).

Chemical treatment trial

CCPM2



Before treatment.
% green: 90-100%
Notes: Healthy



26 weeks after spraying.
% green: 50-90%
Notes: Segments remain
on end of branches.



49 weeks after spraying.
% green: 5-50%
Notes: Green segments
(7) and stem remain on
plant.

Chemical treatment trials

Lessons learned from foliar spraying of Rope Cactus:

- ✚ Plants take 6-12 months to die, or longer.
- ✚ After 12 months only 53% of treated plants were completely dead.
- ✚ Any remaining green tissue will produce new segments.



Hand removal

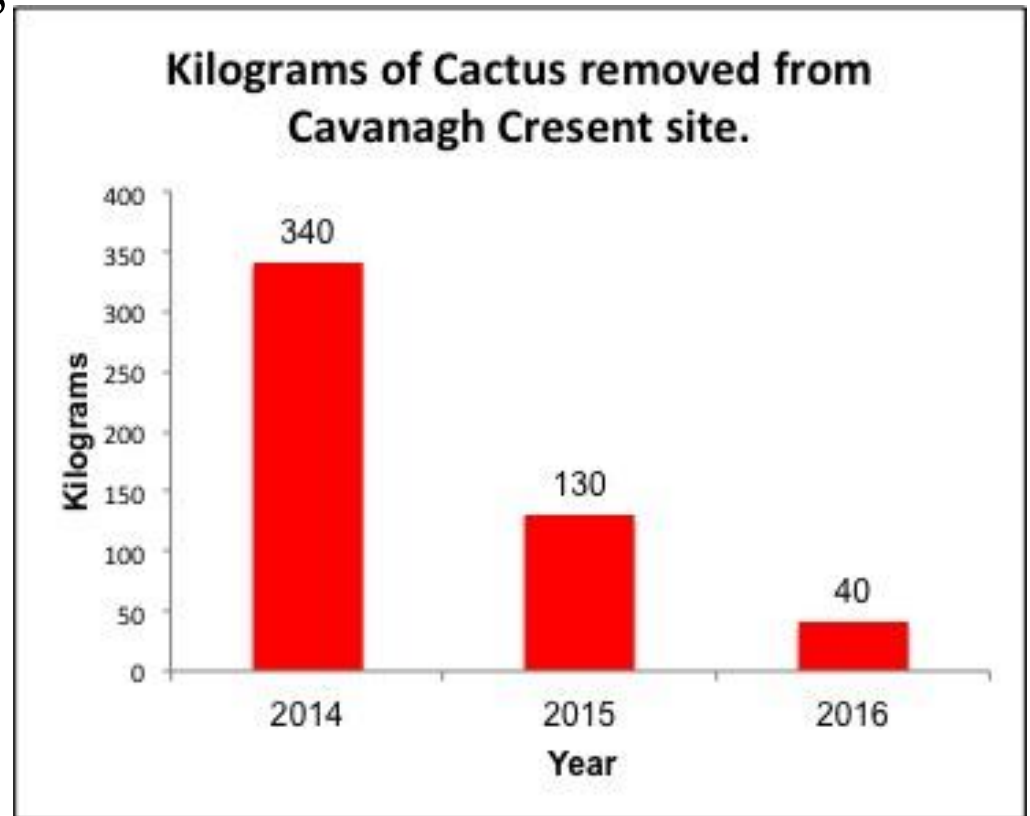
Hand removal technique:

- ✚ Use tongs to pick segments off the plant.
- ✚ Pick up segments or “fingerlings” on the ground.
- ✚ Remove the remaining plant by the roots.
- ✚ Collect all plant material into secure bins.
- ✚ Permits required for transport to disposal site



Check and re-treat infestations

- ✚ Treatment records show that after removing all the cactus you can see there will be some missed.
- ✚ Sites will need to be treated multiple times to remove regrowth.



Check and re-treat infestations

- ✚ Cactus can regrow at a relatively fast rate.
- ✚ 2 years after the first removal work new plants were about 30-40cm high and producing new segments.

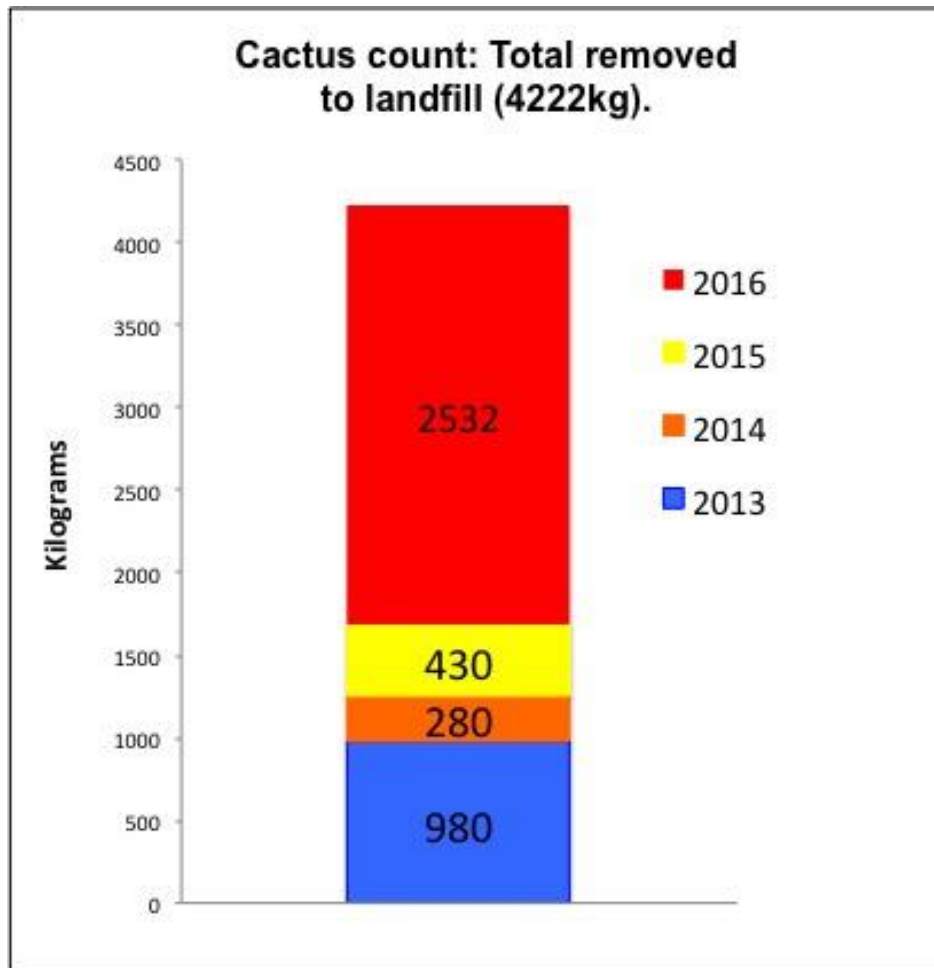


Community education

- ✚ Industry engagement to promote action.
- ✚ Community events to capture support.
- ✚ Changing behaviour in cactus gardens will be the final frontier.



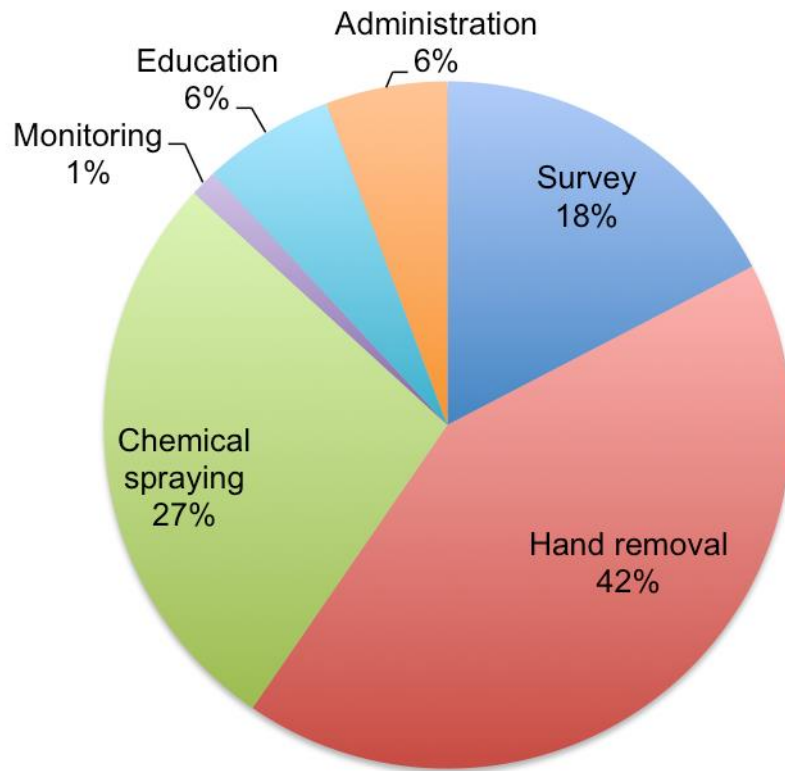
Cactus count: 4222 kg removed



Control of invasive cacti in the Alice Springs region (A.Vinter 2016).

Cactus effort: 1655 hours

**Project hours spent on Cactus 2012-2016
(total: 1655 hours).**



Project supporters

