



Doublegee: pest



Doublegee, spiny emex, three corner jack (*Emex australis*) is a pest in Western Australia (WA). This fact sheet describes the nature of the plant, control methods and how to search, detect and record it.

Form: herbaceous — annual

Status: present in WA

Appearance

Hairless annual, usually prostrate but can grow taller among other plants. Native of South Africa.

Stems: mostly prostrate, to 50 centimetres long, several arising from the crown, hairless, ribbed, fleshy and purple at the base and nodes.

Leaves: triangular to oval, hairless, each leaf stalk surrounded by membranous sheath at the base.

Flowers: male and female flowers are separate and inconspicuous. The male flowers are in clusters on small stalks, while the female flowers are almost without a stalk and form in the leaf axils.

Fruit: woody and hard, 7 to 11 millimetres long and triangular in longitudinal cross section, each angle extending to rigid sharp spine. There are four pits on each face. Changes from green to brown when mature.

Seed: triangular and one per fruit.

Online weed identification training

Login or set up a new account on [DAFWAs online training site](#) to access:

- [a training course on how to identify doublegee and report it.](#)
- [training material that you can use to teach community groups how to identify doublegee.](#)

Agricultural and economic impact

Doublegee can infest crops and pastures. Its woody fruits can damage the feet of livestock, particularly lambs, and dogs. Doublegee plants can be toxic to livestock.

Declared pest category

The [Western Australian Organism List \(WAOL\)](#) contains information on the area(s) in which this pest is declared and the control and keeping categories to which it has been assigned in Western Australia (WA). Use the following WAOL link to reach the declaration and declaration map for: [doublegee](#) .

Search > detect > record

Detectability: [easy to find](#). Doublegee plants have dark green leaves similar to English spinach. *Emex australis* is the most common and widespread of the two types of doublegee found in WA. It has distinctive woody fruits (achenes) each with three obvious spines arranged in such a way that one is always pointing upward. *Emex spinosa* is not as widespread and has smaller spines on its fruit. It has tiny inconspicuous greenish flowers.

Doublegee could be confused with caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*), especially around Perth and larger regional centres. However, caltrop has fine fern-like greyish leaves and small yellow flowers (up to one centimetre across) with five petals. Caltrop plants are only found in summer and autumn. Caltrop is not a declared plant but is a pest plant in some shires.

Who is likely to find it: potentially anyone in the South West Land Division, including biosecurity groups, local governments, landholders and the general public.

When to find it: doublegee plants are most obvious in winter and spring, but they can grow at any time of year if suitable rainfall occurs.

Where to find it: doublegee are found throughout the South West Land Division. It can be found in crop and pasture paddocks, on roadsides and on any disturbed soils.

Record: this pest using the [MyWeedWatcher](#) smartphone and tablet application or [online recording tool](#) .

Control method

When using any agricultural chemicals please ensure that you always follow instructions on the label and any permit. Users of agricultural chemical products must always strictly comply with the directions on the label and the conditions of any permit.

Only registered products can be used for weed and pest control.

Control methods for this plant can be found through the [APVMA website](#) , use "doublegee" as the pest name.

Management calendar: a faded icon means occasionally

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Search												
Germination: any time after rain												
Actively growing												
Flowering												
Fruiting: spiny seed												
Manual removal: use protective gloves												
Treatment: before seed set												

See Also

[Doublegee](#)

[Agricultural weed surveillance project: Royalties for Regions](#)

Links

[MyWeedWatcher](#)

[Online weed identification training](#)

[Western Australian Organism List \(WAOL\): doublegee: Emex australis](#)

[FloraBase: doublegee: Emex australis](#)

[Page updated by Boosting Biosecurity Defences: Royalties for Regions](#)

[APVMA: product search: "doublegee"](#)

All Page Links

- [1] <http://dafwa.moodle.com.au/externaluser/>
- [2] <http://dafwa.moodle.com.au/externaluser/course/view.php?id=29>
- [3] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/organisms>
- [4] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/organisms/84855>
- [5] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/weed-surveillance>
- [6] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/myweedwatcher>
- [7] <https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>
- [8] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/grains-research-development/doublegee>
- [9] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/agricultural-weed-surveillance-project-royalties-regions>
- [10] <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/n/5412>
- [11] <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/organisms/84855>
- [12] <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/2409>
- [13] <https://agric.wa.gov.au/n/3814>

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