**Prosopis glandulosa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plantae</td>
<td>Magnoliophya</td>
<td>Magnoliopsida</td>
<td>Fabales</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
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</tbody>
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**Common name**
mesquite (English), honey mesquite (English), Texas mesquite (English), Mesquite-Busch (German)

**Synonym**

**Similar species**

**Summary**
Prosopis glandulosa (mesquite) is a perennial, woody, deciduous shrub or small tree. It forms impenetrable thickets that compete strongly with native species for available soil water, suppress grass growth and may reduce understory species diversity.

**Species Description**
Multi-stemmed shrub, branches with zigzag shape. Bipinnate leaves generally dark green but can be bluish green, leaflets 5-15 times as long as broad (20mm long). Flowers are yellow and grouped in dense drooping "lamb's tail" spikes. Seed pods bean-like (10-20cm long) with slight constrictions. Spines above axillary bud.

**Notes**
Occurs over climatically diverse regions, grows well on all soil types. Thrives in high temps >38°C. Moderate frost tolerance. Moderate salt tolerance. Pods high in sugar (16%) and protein (12%) and so are sought by animals.

**Lifecycle Stages**
Seeds viable 2-50 years. Maturity 2-5 years. Flowering commences in summer. Seeds mature 35-40 days after flowering. Plants may be deciduous. Seeds germinate after warm temperatures and rain, these conditions may occur only sporadically. Spread facilitated by grazing animals.

**Habitat Description**
Occurs over climatically diverse regions, grows well on all soil types. Thrives in high temps >38°C. Moderate frost tolerance. Moderate salt tolerance. Pods high in sugar (16%) and protein (12%) and so are sought by animals.
Reproduction
Seed production and suckering (dormant buds below the ground, stimulated by disturbance). 10's of thousands of seeds per square metre per year, seedling mortality high less than 800 seedlings per hectare after one year

Nutrition
No significance nutrient requirements.

General Impacts
Rapidly outcompetes understorey plants resulting in complete loss of grass cover. Erosion is exacerbated by allelopathic affects of ground litter.

Management Info
Preventative measures: A Risk assessment of Prosopis spp. for Australia was prepared by Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER) using the Australian risk assessment system (Pheloung, 1995). The result is a score of 20 and a recommendation of: reject the plant for import (Australia) or species likely to be a pest (Pacific). The Best Practice Manual Mesquite Control and management options for mesquite (Prosopis spp.) in Australia aims to provide the most current information on mesquite in Australia. The control and management options presented in this manual are the combined results of years of trials carried out by many dedicated researchers, landholders, herbicide companies, government officers, landcare groups and others. As mesquite species respond differently to control methods, the most effective method or combination of methods will vary depending on the size, density and species of mesquite present. The manual includes a ‘mesquite control tool box’. Included also are a number of case studies to demonstrate best practice.

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)
Updates with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review: Craig Walton, Senior Policy Officer (Ecologist), Land Protection, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Queensland, Australia.

Publication date: 2010-04-13

ALIEN RANGE
[AUSTRALIA]

Red List assessed species 1: VU = 1;
Parus nuchalis VU

BIBLIOGRAPHY
9 references found for Prosopis glandulosa
Management information


**Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Australian Weed Management, 2003. Weed Management Guide: Mesquite Prosopis species. CRC for Australian Weed Management the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines**


**Summary:** This site provides information on the strategy for the management of Mesquite (Prosopis). Documents available for download include the strategy, Mesquite control manual, brochures, posters and current and potential distribution maps.


**IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)., 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.**

**Summary:** This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, develop and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc. Mwangi, Esther & Brent Swallow., 2008. *Prosopis juliflora* Invasion and Rural Livelihoods in the Lake Baringo Area of Kenya. Conservation & Society Year: 2008, Volume: 6 Issue: 2 Page: 130-140


**Summary:** Also available from: [http://www.worldagroforestry.org/downloads/publications/PDFs/wp03mwangi.pdf](http://www.worldagroforestry.org/downloads/publications/PDFs/wp03mwangi.pdf) [Accessed 12 November 2009]


**ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System). 2005. Online Database Prosopis glandulosa**

**Summary:** An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.