

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
<b>Social</b>			
1. Restrict human access?	An erect annual herb commonly 40 to 90 cm high. Saffron thistle grows on disturbed sites of low fertility and, "often grows in dense patches which restrict stock movement." Patches may inhibit direct access.	P & C (2001)	<b>ML</b>
2. Reduce tourism?	The flower stems are rigid and the leaves are reflexed and rigid, and armed with stout spines. Dense patches may restrict some recreational activities.	P & C (2001)	<b>MH</b>
3. Injurious to people?	The flower stems are rigid and the leaves are reflexed and rigid, and armed with stout spines. Spines are present for most of the year.	P & C (2001)	<b>MH</b>
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Dense patches would create a negative visual impact the spiny nature of the plant would seriously affect the aesthetics of a cultural site. An annual herb, the root system would not cause structural damage.		<b>ML</b>
<b>Abiotic</b>			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
7. Increase soil erosion?	"In the Western Plains of New South Wales, <i>C. lanatus</i> helped to provide ground cover and prevent erosion."	Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	<b>L</b>
8. Reduce biomass?	Direct replacement of biomass by invader.		<b>ML</b>
9. Change fire regime?	When the plant dies it leaves very little fuel to establish or support fire.		<b>L</b>
<b>Community Habitat</b>			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Plains grassy woodland (E); CMA=Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg=Victorian Volcanic Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. "Saffron thistle often occurs in dense patches. [However, it] does not invade perennial pastures." In Victoria, it occurs in small populations. Minor impact on grasses/forbs.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	<b>ML</b>
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Plains sedgy woodland (E); CMA=Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg=Dundas Tablelands; VH CLIMATE potential. Impact as in 10(a) above.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	<b>ML</b>
(c) low value EVC	Does not appear likely to occur in low value EVCs in Victoria.		<b>L</b>
11. Impact on structure?	<i>C. lanatus</i> is widespread across Victoria in small populations. It is found in lowland grassland and grassy woodland. It establishes on disturbed sites competing for moisture, light and soil nutrients. Minor effect <60% of the floral strata.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992) Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	<b>ML</b>
12. Effect on threatened flora?			

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<b>Fauna</b>			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?			
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Competes with perennial grasses and, as the stout spines discourage grazing, it would reduce the food source for native species.	Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	<b>ML</b>
15. Benefits fauna?	“Several reports from New South Wales and South Australia have indicated that <i>C. lanatus</i> have some feed value.”	Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	<b>MH</b>
16. Injurious to fauna?	“Causes or predisposes the livestock to eye and mouth injury.” Potential to injure fauna.	Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	<b>H</b>
<b>Pest Animal</b>			
17. Food source to pests?	Not known as a food source to pests.		<b>L</b>
18. Provides harbor?	Not known to provide harbor.		<b>L</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>			
19. Impact yield?	“Restricts or eliminates pasture growth in low fertility soils, thereby reducing carrying capacity and preventing livestock grazing. Reduces grain yield by 50–70%.” Serious impact on agricultural yield.	Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	<b>H</b>
20. Impact quality?	“Seeds and broken plant parts contaminate wheat, leading to dockage by the Australian Wheat Board. It also causes vegetable fault in wool.” “Produce such as hay or seed which contains seeds of any noxious weed is usually prohibited from sale.”	P & C (2001) Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	<b>H</b>
21. Affect land value?	“Decreases property values and potential income.”	Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	<b>H</b>
22. Change land use?	“A persistent approach [to control] is necessary. One effective program combines cropping and pasture establishment.” Change to land use in grazing situations. Alternatively, goats can be used to control infestations.	P & C (2001)	<b>M</b>
23. Increase harvest costs?	“...the hard stems increase wear and tear on harvesting machinery.”	P & C (2001)	<b>M</b>
24. Disease host/vector?	“There is veterinary evidence that the spiny leaves and bracts are involved in transmitting virus diseases in grazing animals.”	P & C (2001)	<b>M</b>