

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: *Hypericum humifusum*

Common name: trailing St. John's wort

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Height is from 3 to 30centimetres (Tutin <i>et al</i> 1968). Plant grows flat along the ground (FNIAR 2001). Plant would have negligible impact on human access.	L	H
2. Reduce tourism?	In Guernsey 'the bright yellow flowers of [<i>H. humifusum</i>] light up [the] banks and cliffs in June and July (La Societe Guernesiaise 2005). Weed may have minor effect on aesthetics.	ML	MH
3. Injurious to people?	No documented evidence that the plant be toxic or injurious to humans.	L	L
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Low lying plant. Little or negligible effect on aesthetics and structure of cultural site.	L	MH
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	L	MH
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	L	MH
7. Increase soil erosion?	No evidence to suggest that weed would increase soil erosion.	L	MH
8. Reduce biomass?	Found on hedgebanks and in coastal grassland. In Guernsey it is 'common inland and on the cliffs, alongside the paths and on bareish rocky slopes in more accessible areas' (La Societe Guernesiaise 2005). In some situations biomass may increase. However, insufficient information to determine whether or not weed replaces other plants. Score as medium.	M	L
9. Change fire regime?	Glabrous perennial herb (Tutin <i>et al</i> 1968). Weed would have small or negligible effect on fire risk.	L	H
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Coastal headland scrub (V); CMA=Corangamite; Bioreg=Warrnambool Plain; CLIMATE potential=VH. Found on hedgebanks and in coastal grassland. In Guernsey it is 'common inland and on the cliffs, alongside the paths and on bareish rocky slopes in more accessible areas' (La Societe Guernesiaise 2005). Very little displacement of any indigenous species.	L	MH
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Clay heathland (D); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Gippsland Plain; CLIMATE potential=VH. Found on hedgebanks and in coastal grassland. In Guernsey it is 'common inland and on the cliffs, alongside the paths and on bareish rocky slopes in more accessible areas' (La Societe Guernesiaise 2005). Very little displacement of any indigenous species.	L	MH
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Heathy woodland (LC); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Highland Southern Fall; CLIMATE potential=VH. Found on hedgebanks and in coastal grassland. In Guernsey it is 'common inland and on	L	MH

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	the cliffs, alongside the paths and on bareish rocky slopes in more accessible areas' (La Societe Guernesiaise 2005). Very little displacement of any indigenous species.		
11. Impact on structure?	Found on hedgebanks and in coastal grassland. In Guernsey it is 'common inland and on the cliffs, alongside the paths and on bareish rocky slopes in more accessible areas' (La Societe Guernesiaise 2005). Low lying plant which would have a minor or negligible effect on <20% of the lower strata.	L	MH
12. Effect on threatened flora?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened flora.	MH	L
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened fauna.	MH	L
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Insufficient information to determine whether or not the weed effects non-threatened fauna species. Score medium.	M	L
15. Benefits fauna?	Insufficient information to determine whether or not the weed provides benefits or facilitates the establishment of indigenous fauna. Score medium.	M	L
16. Injurious to fauna?	Weed not documented to be toxic or have spines, burrs which affect indigenous fauna but insufficient information to draw conclusions. Score medium.	M	L
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Insufficient information to determine whether weed provides a food source to assist in success of pest animals. Score as medium.	M	L
18. Provides harbour?	Insufficient information to determine whether weed provides harbour for serious pest species. Score as medium.	M	L
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Not documented as a weed of agriculture.	L	MH
20. Impact quality?	Not a weed of cropping.	L	MH
21. Affect land value?	Weed not known to affect land value.	L	MH
22. Change land use?	Weed not known to cause a change in priority of land use.	L	MH
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not a weed of cropping.	L	MH
24. Disease host/vector?	Weed not known as an alternative host or vector of disease.	L	MH

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References cited:

French National Institute for Agricultural Research 2001, *Hypericum humifusum*, L., Hypermedia for Plant Protection, viewed 16 Jan 2006,
http://www.dijon.inra.fr/malherbo/hyppa/hyppa-a/hyphu_ah.htm

La Societe Guernesiaise 2005, *Interesting plants of Guernsey: Hypericum humifusum*, La Societe Guernesiaise, viewed 16 Jan 2006,
<http://www.guernsey.net/~cdavid/botany/files/hypericum%20humifusum/index.html>

Tutin, T.G., Heywood, V.H., Burges, N.A., Valentine, D.H., Walters, S.M. & Webb, D.A. (eds) 1968, *Flora of Europaea, vol.2, Rosaceae to Umbelliferae*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision
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