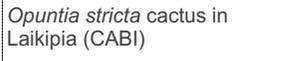


# Erect prickly pear in pasture

*Opuntia stricta*

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent pasture from degrading by moving livestock regularly and sowing seed. Degraded pasture can lead to infestations by the weed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Succulent erect, spreading shrub, 0.5-1.3 (-2) m high. Forms thickets.</li> <li>Cladodes (modified stems): blue-green, longer than broad (10-20 cm long)</li> <li>Spines: 1-2 per cladode, 1.5-4 cm long, flattened and yellow.</li> <li>Leaves: Cylindrical, minute and shed early</li> <li>Flowers: Yellow and large (5-6 cm long and 5-6 cm wide)</li> <li>Fruits: Berries, green turning red-purple as they mature, egg-shaped (4-6 cm long and 2.5-3 cm wide), outer surface smooth with clusters of barbed hairs or bristles, narrowed at the base, purple sour pulp, white seeds.</li> <li>Look out for this weed by in disturbed areas, savannah, grassland, and on riverbanks in arid to semi-arid regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manually remove the weed if infestations are low. <b>Wear protective gloves and clothing to protect skin from the spines.</b> Remove the weed before it flowers to prevent spread</li> <li>Burn uprooted material if there is enough dry material to burn and if it is permitted in your area. This will prevent the material taking root</li> <li>Burning can help control small, isolated stands if the fire is hot but will not penetrate large stands</li> <li>Mechanical control of the weed is not recommended unless infestations are low since small broken fragments are able to root in soil, sometimes making the infestation worse</li> <li>Common biological control agents include a Phycitid moth, <i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i> and a cochineal insect, <i>Dactylopius opuntiae</i>. See if these are available in your country</li> </ul>			
						
						

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.