

Bugs, Beetles & Biocontrol

Control Parthenium and Cat's Claw Creeper weeds in the Inland Burnett!

Do you have Cats Claw Creeper and/or Parthenium weed? Want a non-chemical solution? Interested in being involved in our biocontrol project?

Burnett Catchment Care Association (BCCA) received a National Landcare Program – Smart Farms Small Grant to establish biocontrol breeding facilities in Monto. The facility will be used to produce biocontrol agents for **Cats Claw Creeper (CCC)** and **Parthenium**.

What is a biocontrol agent?

Biocontrol agents are an organism, in our case – bugs (Jewel Beetle) and rust (Summer Rust), which are used to control the pest species, in this case CCC and Parthenium respectively. The aim of the biocontrol agent is to reduce the health of the weeds by feeding on the stem, leaves or even flowers of the weeds reducing their vigour and ability to spread. The biocontrol agents are very host specific, meaning they will only feed on the Parthenium/CCC and will leave other plant species alone.

How to be involved?

If you are a landholder with areas infested with CCC and/or Parthenium and are located in the **Inland Burnett** (North Burnett and South Burnett Regional Council area) and would like to be involved in releasing biocontrol agents on your property, please fill in your details and answer a few questions and send back to BCCA by **Friday 17 December 2021**. Biocontrol agents will be ready for release in mid-January 2022.

Name (contact person):	
Property Address (where weeds are located):	
Postal Address:	
Phone:	Mobile:
Email:	
Lot on Plan/s (where biocontrol agents will be released):	
Enterprise Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle <input type="checkbox"/> Grains <input type="checkbox"/> Citrus <input type="checkbox"/> Lucerne <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Questions about the target weeds on your property (Please tick box that applies)

<p>1. Do you have Parthenium on your property?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to Q2.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please answer the questions below.</p> <p>Estimated area of infestation? hectares/acres</p> <p>How long has it been on your property?</p> <p>How do you think it was introduced to your property?</p> <p>How do you currently control the infestation – e.g. chemical control, grazing management?</p> <p>Would you be refrain from using chemicals in the area the biocontrol agents were released on your property?</p> <p>Do you permit a BCCA Field Officer to visit and take photos and/or collect data at the biocontrol release site?</p>
<p>2. Do you have Cats Claw Creeper on your property?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please answer the questions below.</p> <p>Estimated area of infestation? hectares/acres <i>Note: Jewel Beetles work best in larger infestations of CCC. Small infestations of CCC can be controlled by physical and/or chemical control.</i></p> <p>How long has it been on your property?</p> <p>How do you think it was introduced to your property?</p> <p>How do you currently control the infestation – e.g. chemical control, physical removal, grazing management?</p> <p>Would you be willing to refrain from using chemicals in the area the biocontrol agents were released on your property?</p> <p>Do you permit a BCCA Field Officer to visit and take photos and/or collect data at the biocontrol release site?</p>

Please complete this form and return to Burnett Catchment Care Association

Post: **PO Box 8 Monto Q 4630**
 Email: **admin@burnettcatchment.org**