Mistflower, also known as "Creeping Crofton weed", is an aggressive weed in south-eastern Queensland, spreading into pastures, reducing the carrying capacity significantly and spreading into bushland displacing native vegetation. It will quickly invade disturbed areas on frost-free slopes and dominate riverine groundcover habitats, excluding many native species and the native animals which were reliant upon those plants.

There is no field evidence to support claims that the plant is toxic to stock. Mistflower is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

**Description**

Mistflower is a low-growing, sprawling perennial herb 40–60cm high. It has numerous branching stems which produce roots at the joints where they touch the ground. Leaves are opposite, mostly 7.5cm long and 2.5cm wide toothed along the edges and tapered at each end. White flowers, similar to those of Crofton weed, are produced, in winter, in small, dense heads at the ends of the branches. Seeds are slender, angular, 2mm long, black, with fine white hairs at the tip.

**Management**

The best form of weed control is prevention. Pull out small plants and ensure proper disposal by burning or putting into black plastic bags to rot down. Cultivation, grubbing, hoeing and burning where appropriate followed by planting of competitive pastures, or replanting with native vegetation will control mistflower.

**Pasture management**

Well-managed stocking rates and fertilised pasture should be employed to provide competition for mistflower seedlings, as well as the re-establishment of pasture and establishment of sown pasture grasses following herbicide control treatments.

Do not overgraze pasture. An aerial application of fertiliser in steep country produces thick pasture; with which mistflower does not readily compete. Reestablishment of pasture, where necessary, after herbicidal control is recommended to restrict seedling regeneration and prevent erosion. Newly established pastures preferably should not be grazed until they have seeded.

**Reference:** Land Protection (Invasive Plants and Animals), 2007, “PP20, Wedd Busters Fact Sheet”, the State of Queensland, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.