



**Greater Shepparton City Council**

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Monday to Friday 8.15am to 5.00pm





## What is Bindii

Also known as Caltrop, Bindii (*Tribulus terrestris*) is a declared noxious weed, and has become a big problem in the municipality.

The spiny seed capsules it produces stick in tyres and shoes and spread into parks, nature strips and lawns.

Bindii originates from southern Europe and is an annual weed that grows rapidly in the summer. It is a wiry plant that grows flat on the ground with stems up to a metre in length.

The leaves are fern-like, grey/green in colour and small white hairs are spread over most of the plant. Yellow star-like flowers are produced followed by hard spiny seed capsule, about a centimeter in size.

The plant responds to summer rain and prefers light soil with little competition from other plants. Each plant can produce up to 1,000 seeds that can remain dormant for years.

## Impacts of Bindii

Bindii is threatening the amenity values of recreation activities in the municipality. In summer these weeds form impenetrable mats of vegetation and spines that deter recreation activities such as bike riding, dog walking or kicking a football, due to the injuries that can result from a fall or stepping on the spiny seed capsules.

Bindii seeds are easily spread by people, animals and vehicles because the spiny capsules stick in car tyres, soles of shoes or animals fur. So to prevent the further spread of this weed, control needs to be undertaken before seed set. The time has come for community action.



## How to Control Bindii

Greater Shepparton City Council is making landowners aware of the problem and asking them to assist, by joining in a community Bindii control program during the coming summer, reporting infestations on council roadsides and controlling infestations on their own properties.

Successful control of Bindii in the municipality requires a community approach. The optimum time to control Bindii is in the late spring and early summer when the plants are small and before seed is visible.

Controlling Bindii can be carried out in a number of ways including hand weeding, chipping and herbicide spraying. The plants can be disposed of in the green lid organics bins.

Broadleaf selective herbicides (such as MCPA/Dicamba) are the most effective form of longer term chemical treatment, because the herbicide won't kill the grasses that provide competition to the Bindii. Contact your local agricultural chemical supplier or nursery for further herbicide advice.

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For further information on Bindii, visit the **Greater Shepparton City Council** website at [www.greatershepparton.com.au](http://www.greatershepparton.com.au) and search Bindii