

Alien Watch

Cacti—prickly pears and their kin

Opuntia spp; *Cylindropuntia* spp.; *Harrisia* spp; *Tephrocactus* spp.

Fast growing invasive aliens, labelled as one of
Namibia's Nasty Nine.

Planted for fodder, ornamentals and security.



February 2022

No 6

- A succulent plant
- Stems fleshy, green, round/oval or cylindrical (cladode)
- White spines cover cladodes
- Flowers showy white, yellow, pink
- Fruit red when ripe, eaten by humans & animals
- Fruit spread by birds and baboons
- **AGGRESSIVELY INVASIVE**
- **Spreads, forming impenetrable mats**
- **Animals become impaled on spines**
- **Reduces grazing and smothers indigenous plants**
- **Planting of this species is STRONGLY DISCOURAGED**
- **Cacti are controlled with biocontrol, or by manual removal**
- **If removed manually plants should be BURIED at least 50 cm deep, burnt or treated with chemicals**
- **DO NOT CUT AND DUMP— GROWS EASILY FROM PIECES**



Source: C Mannheim; F. Chase

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