

# Yellow guava

*Psidium guajava*



Yellow guava is native to tropical America. As an environmental weed it has become locally naturalised in bushland and coastal areas in Queensland. Yellow guava is a serious environmental weed in six other countries, being described as the third most prominent invasive alien woody plant along watercourses in coastal belts in South Africa.

Yellow guava is known to form dense stands, and its seeds are distributed by birds, mammals, livestock and people. Its fruits have traditionally been used for juices and jams and are still used commercially. Adding to its undesirable status, the yellow guava is host to the papaya fruit fly in north Queensland. This makes removal and control of yellow guava a high priority.



## Legal requirements

Yellow guava is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

## Description

Yellow guava is a small tree up to 10 m in height. It has spreading branches, and characteristic copper coloured bark which flakes away to reveal the pale green layer beneath. The wide green leaves are oblong in shape, leathery, aromatic when crushed and downy on the underside. Leaf dimensions are 7–15 cm long and 3–5 cm wide. The flowers are creamy white, and shed their petals to leave a tuft of yellow tipped stamens. The rounded fruits have yellow skins when ripe, with pinkish red flesh, and can be between 5–10 cm in length. Flowering occurs from September to February.

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of yellow guava**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, fence lines, forestry, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr 240 g/L + picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	2 L per 60 L diesel	Basal bark Cut stems will reshoot, and regrowth may occur from roots of the main tree Guava can resucker away from the parent plant

**Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.**

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Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au) to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

