

Siratro

Macroptilium atropurpureum



Siratro is a legume which is native to tropical America, and widely used in coastal eastern Queensland and coastal New South Wales as a pasture plant. Siratro is commonly seen growing on roadsides, in disturbed sites and in areas not grazed by livestock. As an environmental weed, siratro can form dense infestations along forest edges, and will grow over native shrubs, grasses or young trees, effectively smothering them. More recently it is common in vegetation around waterways and in coastal sand dune vegetation. Siratro is also a problem in revegetation sites where it smothers young trees and shrubs before they become established. Siratro spreads vegetatively and via seeds.

Legal requirements

Siratro 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 and animals under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals 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

Siratro is a creeping or climbing legume, with bright green leaves between 2–7 cm long, with each leaf having three broad leaflets. The two lower leaflets will often have an extra rounded lobe, and the leaves have silky hairs on their underside. ‘Sweet pea-like’ dark red-purple flowers are borne on long spikes most of the year. After flowering, narrow pods 5–10 cm long appear.

Management strategies

Siratro can be hand pulled, chipped or mowed. Removing the whole crown by grubbing is the most effective manual/mechanical control method. Tangled growth may need to be cleared using a brush cutter. Cannot tolerate grazing.

Herbicide control

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of siratro in Queensland; however, an off-label use permit allows the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland and forests.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under PER11463 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit www.apvma.gov.au

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of siratro

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Spot spray	triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L	350 mL per 100 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2018	Spray when actively growing. Treatments may need to be repeated if regrowth occurs
Foliar spray	glufosinate ammonia 200 g/L	1–3 L per ha		
Handgun	glufosinate ammonia 200 g/L	100–300 mL per 100 L		
Knapsack	glufosinate ammonia 200 g/L	15–45 mL per 15 L		

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 www.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.

