

Cha-om

Prohibited invasive plant

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- It is illegal to keep, grow, transport or sell Cha-om in Queensland.
- Could invade pastures and natural ecosystems and limit beef production.
- Leaves and stems have a very strong odour.
- Prefers disturbed habitats, generally near rainforests.
- Spines can injure animals and people.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

Cha-om (*Senegalia insuavis*) is a shrub up to 5 m high that has a tendency to climb like a vine among other vegetation. The leaves are bipinnate and it has scattered prickles along its branchlets and stems. It has yellow-cream flowers, flattened seed pods and the ability to form dense, thorny thickets.

Cha-om can also be confused with *Senegalia albizioides*. This plant is a climbing and prickly native and 'near threatened' species from around Innisfail and further north.

Biosecurity risk

Cha-om is a prohibited invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland in 13 25 23.

Cha-om can invade pastures and outcompete with native vegetation. It forms prickly thickets, which can limit movement of people and animals.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen Cha-om, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent cha-om from spreading. **You must not grow, sell or give Cha-om away. There are alternative plants that can be used in food preparation.**

More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.



Similar looking species to Cha-om

Climbing wattle (*Senegalia albizioides*)

- A climbing vine with stems up to 12 cm in diameter.
- Flower buds are red, which open into spherical flowers, cream to yellow in colour.
- Fruits are flattened, about 4.5–7 x 1.5–2 cm.
- Each fruit has 5–10 seed, each seed about 10–11 x 6–7 mm.

Key feature different to Cha-om

Climbing wattle has larger leaflets and lacks strong distinctive odour.



Leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*)

- A shrub or small tree up to about 6 m tall.
- Leaves are about 25 cm long and bipinnate, with dull, greyish-green leaflets.
- Flowers are much larger, flower heads are spherical and creamy yellow in colour on short stalks about 5 cm long.
- Flattened pods up to 15 cm long occur in dense clusters, each pod containing around 20 glossy brown, flat seeds that scatter when ripe.

Key feature different to Cha-om

Leucaena doesn't have a pungent smell nor thorns.



Poinciana (*Delonix regia*)

- A large tree, native to Madagascar, up to 10 m tall that is commonly planted in parks and on nature strips.

Key feature different to Cha-om

Poinciana grows into a large tree, has red flowers and seed pods up to 60 cm in length. Poinciana seedlings lack thorns and the distinctive smell.



Common sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*)

- A low, sprawling, perennial plant growing about 15–45 cm high.
- It has reddish-brown or purple woody stems with short curved prickles dark-green leaves, which close up when disturbed or injured and pale pink flowers in fluffy balls.

Key feature different to Cha-om

Common sensitive plant grows as a ground cover, has pink flowers and the leaves close up when touched.

