Native to South America, centro is now an established pasture plant and a widespread weed of cane fields, roadside banks and other disturbed areas.

**Legal requirements**

Centro 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**

A vigorous twining perennial herb, centro forms a tangled mat about 50 cm deep or grows up shrubs to 3 m or more.

Dark green leaves are trifoliate with leaflets about 2 cm long and 1–1.5 cm wide and covered with fine, downy hairs.

Large mauve pea flowers grow in groups of one to several at the end of slender stalks from the leaf axils. Pods are long, 7.5–15 cm, flat and brown when ripe, holding up to 20 brownish-red seeds with black streaks.
Control

Manual control

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all roots and stem fragments are removed. Plant pieces should either be bagged and taken to the dump or hung up off the ground to prevent reshooting.

Herbicide control

There is only one herbicide (glufosinate-ammonium) registered for use on centro in non-agricultural situations in Queensland.

Permit No. PER11463 allows the use of various herbicides for the control of centro in non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, and coastal and adjacent areas.

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 apvma.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of centro

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration details</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial and industrial areas, forest plantations, rights-of-way and other non-agricultural areas. Fencelines in agricultural areas.</td>
<td>Glufosinate-ammonium 200 g/L (e.g. Basta)</td>
<td>500 mL per 100 L clean water</td>
<td>Registered for use</td>
<td>Spot spray (when plants are actively growing). NOTE: an eight-week withholding period applies in some situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dicamba 200 g/L</td>
<td>500 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 L water plus wetting agent</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023</td>
<td>Foliar spray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dicamba 500 g/L (e.g. Kamba 500)</td>
<td>200 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 L water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

Further information

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

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of centro

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

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