**Yellow fever tree**

*Call Biosecurity Queensland immediately on 13 25 23 if you see this species*

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**Yellow fever tree** (*Vachellia xanthophloea*)

- A quick-growing deciduous tree growing up to 25 m high.
- Bark is smooth and coated with a greenish-yellow powder that can rub off easily.
- Spines are large, white, straight, strong and arranged in pairs.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland’s agricultural industries and natural environment.

**Description**

Native to southern and eastern Africa, yellow fever tree is a quick-growing tree with yellow flowers and large spines. Its name is thought to reflect its yellow bark and tendency to grow in swampy areas of Africa, where malaria is common. Yellow fever tree can form dense thickets that replace pasture and native plants. It has been detected in gardens in Queensland but does not appear to have naturalised. If it escapes cultivation and spreads, it could become a costly invasive plant of grazing land across substantial areas of Central Queensland.

Yellow fever tree is a semi-deciduous, quick-growing tree 10–25 m high. Its bark is smooth, slightly flaking and coated with a distinctive greenish-yellow powder that can be rubbed away to reveal a green colour. Leaves are bipinnate, with 4–7 pairs of pinnae and 10–17 pairs of leaflets per pinnae. Leaflets are 2.5–6.5 mm × 0.75–1.75 mm. Petiolar glands are usually present at the base of the upper pinnae pairs.

Spines are white, straight and strong and arranged in pairs. Flowers are yellow, spherical, fragrant and clustered on slender stalks in the axils of spines. Fruit are flat, papery, light brown pods, 5–19 cm long, containing 5–10 seeds per pod. Seeds are elliptical, flattened, dark brown and released when the pod bursts open.

**Pest risk**

Yellow fever tree is a prohibited invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**. Yellow fever tree must not be introduced, kept, moved, supplied, or released into the environment.

**What should I do?**

If you think you have seen yellow fever tree, report it to Biosecurity Queensland immediately on **13 25 23**. Until an authorised officer contacts you, take reasonable and practical measures to prevent yellow fever tree from spreading.

**Further information**

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit our website at [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).