

White ball acacia

Prohibited invasive plant

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- It is illegal to keep, cultivate, transport or sell white ball acacia in Queensland.
- Thornless shrub usually growing 2–7 m high with a single short trunk.
- Flowers are in whitish clusters, 1–1.5 cm wide.
- Similar in appearance to leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*).
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

Native to tropical and subtropical America, white ball acacia (*Acaciella angustissima* syn. *Acacia angustissima*, *Acacia boliviana*) is a thornless shrub or small tree usually growing 2–7 m high with a single short trunk. However, it may very rarely reach up to 12 m in height. Its younger stems are hairless or finely hairy and are usually somewhat striate. The leaves are bipinnate, 10–21 cm long, and usually have 10–17 pairs of pinnae. They are borne on stalks 1.2–3.5 cm long that are sparsely strigulose. The pinnae are 2.5–5 cm long and each bears 20–40 pairs of leaflets. These relatively narrow leaflets are small, 2.4–5 mm long and 0.5–2 mm wide, with pointed tips and entire margins.

The whitish flower clusters are globular or ellipsoidal in shape, 1–1.5 cm wide. They are borne on short peduncles, 1–1.5 cm long and arranged in axillary fascicles, which may sometimes be arranged into larger panicle-like inflorescences. The flat, thin-walled, papery, pods are oblong in shape, 3–9 cm long and 6–15 mm wide, with straight or sinuate margins. They are initially green but turn coffee-brown when ripe. Each pod contains 8–12 circular seeds 2.5–3.2 mm wide. Flowering occurs all year-round.

Biosecurity risk

White ball acacia is a prohibited invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

White ball acacia can invade nearby habitats, forming dense, thorny thickets that exclude native vegetation. It has the potential to become widespread and abundant in north Queensland's dry tropical woodlands and riparian areas, extending to subcoastal and coastal southern Queensland.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen white ball acacia, 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 white ball acacia from spreading.

More information

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

