Native to tropical and sub-tropical Asia, bamboos were introduced as an ornamental, and are often used as shelter belts or for erosion control. Dense stands of bamboo grow to the total exclusion of other vegetation in many different environments.

**Legal requirements**

Bamboo 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 measures to minimise the biosecurity 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**

Bamboos are perennial, tall, woody grasses of varying heights of 2–15 m. They have hollow canes with nodes at intervals and alternate thick, grass-like leaves.

Shoots from buds of underground stems (rhizomes) spread and produce new canes either slowly (clumping bamboos) or rapidly (running bamboos). The former (e.g. *Bambusa* spp.) are less invasive of native vegetation and gardens than the latter (e.g. *Phyllostachys* spp.) in which rhizomes may grow as far as 1 m from the parent plant in the first year, the rate of growth increasing each year afterwards. Each rhizome is capable of producing many new shoots along its length.

Flowers are usually insignificant and held on slender arching panicles.
Control

Manual control

Digging plants out can be a very difficult job and may require heavy equipment. Continuing removal of tops will usually be necessary due to the plant’s resprouting; however, ongoing regular cutting or mowing will eventually kill most plants by exhausting their food reserves.

Herbicide control

Various formulations containing glyphosate as their only active ingredient are registered for the control of bamboo in Queensland. See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permits.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under the permits (PER11463 and PER83165) you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permits. To obtain a copy of these permits visit apvma.gov.au.

When using herbicide treatment, do NOT allow spray drift onto susceptible crops and ornamentals and do NOT spray near desirable trees. Some trees and palms are extremely sensitive.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of bamboo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration details</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bambusa spp. only</td>
<td>Glyphosate various formulations</td>
<td>Consult label for correct rate for your formulation</td>
<td>Spot spray (remove tops of bamboo shoots and spot spray actively growing foliage and/or regrowth 1–2 m high)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-crop</td>
<td>Glyphosate (various formulations)</td>
<td>Consult label for correct rate for your formulation</td>
<td>Cut stump (cut stems back to 20 cm high and immediately pour herbicide down the hollow stem and wet the cut)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other bamboo species: Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, road sides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas</td>
<td>Glyphosate 360 g/L</td>
<td>1 L/100 L water</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023</td>
<td>Spot spray (remove tops of bamboo shoots and spot spray actively growing foliage and/or regrowth 1–2 m high)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glyphosate (other formulations)</td>
<td>Consult permit for rate for other formulation</td>
<td>Cut stump (cut stems back to 20 cm high and immediately pour herbicide down the hollow stem and wet the cut)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 L per 6 L water</td>
<td>Consult permit for rate for other formulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-crop areas, rights-of-way, reserves and bushland</td>
<td>Flupropanate 745 g/L (e.g. Kenock, Rambo, Tussock)</td>
<td>200 mL/100 L water</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER83165 Permit expires 30/06/2025</td>
<td>Restrictions apply to the use of flupropanate where livestock are grazed, including rights-of-way. In these situations, WITHHOLDING PERIODS APPLY. Please note: Persons who can use the product under this permit: Employees of, or persons under the direction of Biosecurity Queensland or of Queensland Local Governments who are trained and experienced in the use of Agricultural pesticides.</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.

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

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

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 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.