

Horsetails

Prohibited invasive plant

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- It is illegal to keep, cultivate, transport or sell horsetails in Queensland.
- An upright, perennial plant with jointed aerial stems.
- Appearance is similar to miniature bamboo.
- Has the potential to reduce crop yields and impact livestock.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

Horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.) is an upright, non-flowering perennial plant that can grow up to 1.5 m high. Leaves are non-photosynthetic, grow in whorls of 6–18 on the main shoots and are fused part of length into nodal sheaths.

Stems are green, hollow, jointed, ridged, with sometimes three but usually 6–40 ridges. Fruiting cones are 1–4 cm long and grow at ends of the stems and produce pale-greenish to yellow spores. Many horsetails have the appearance of miniature bamboo.

Biosecurity risk

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

Horsetails can greatly reduce crop yields, impact native environments, and the consumption of *Equisetum* by livestock can result in fatal poisoning. It also has the potential to escape cultivation and become a serious invasive plant.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen horsetails, 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 horsetails from spreading.

More information

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

