

Yellow bells

Tecoma stans



Yellow bells is a densely branched shrub that can invade native bushland and roadsides. It has the potential to form dense thickets that exclude other vegetation.

Legal requirements

Yellow bells is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given

away, sold, or released into the environment. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). This fact sheet gives examples of how you can meet your GBO.



Queensland
Government

At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on yellow bells. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Yellow bells is a densely branched shrub that usually grows up to 5 m high, occasionally up to 10 m high.

Flowers are tubular, bright yellow, 3–5 cm long, tubular, in clusters at ends of branches. There are several faint reddish lines in the throat of the flower, which is slightly ridged and hairy.

Leaves are 10–25 cm long, with 2–5 paired leaflets along stem, oppositely arranged and are borne on slender petioles 1–9 cm long. Each leaflet is up to 10 cm long with serrated edges.

The fruit are bean-like pods, 10–30 cm long. These fruit turn from green to brown in colour as they mature and finally split open to release numerous papery seeds. The seeds are flat, oblong in shape, 7–8 mm long and about 4 mm wide and have a transparent wing at each end.

The bark is pale brown or reddish-brown with age. The the main stem bark is light brown to pale grey in colour, furrowed and becoming very rough in texture as the plant matures.

Life cycle

Yellow bells flowers mostly during spring but may also throughout the year.

Methods of spread

Yellow bells papery seeds can be spread by wind. It can also spread by floodwaters and in dumped garden waste.

Habitat and distribution

Native to tropical America, yellow bells prefers disturbed areas, grasslands, waterways and along roadsides.

Yellow bells can be found in coastal areas of northern and eastern Queensland and in Brisbane.

Control

Managing yellow bells

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by yellow bells.

Physical control

Seedlings can be hand-pulled. Larger plants are more difficult to control manually and can resprout from cut roots unless these are pulled up and burned after drying.

Repeat control is necessary to reduce reinfestations levels. Do not break taproot if removing by hand as regrowth is likely.

Herbicide control

Herbicide options available for the control of yellow bells in Queensland are in Table 1.

Landholders and contractors should check if the property is in a hazardous area as defined in the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966* prior to spraying.

More information

For more information contact your local government or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.



Table 1. Herbicides for the control of yellow bells

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Non-crop areas, including native vegetation, conservation areas, gullies, reserves and parks	Aminopyralid 4.47 g/L + picloram 44.7 g/L (e.g. Vigilant)	Neat	Cut stump
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, fence lines, forestry, pastures and rights-of-way	Picloram 120 g/L + triclopyr 240 g/L (e.g. Access)	1 L/60 L diesel	Basal bark or cut stump
Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/ native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas	Triclopyr 300 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (e.g. Grazon Extra)	350–500 mL/100 L of water	Spot spray Permit 11463 (expires 30 April 2027)
	Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (e.g. Starane Advanced)	1670 mL/100 L of diesel distillate	Basal bark Permit 11463 (expires 30 April 2027)
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup)	1000 mL/100 L of water	Foliar spray Permit 11463 (expires 30 April 2027) Seedlings only
		1000 mL + 9000 mL of water + Pulse®	Splatter or gas gun Permit 11463 (expires 30 April 2027)
	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Brushoff)	10 g/100 L of water + wetter	Foliar spray Permit 11463 (expires 30 April 2027) Seedlings only
		2 g/1 L of water + Pulse®	Splatter or gas gun Permit 11463 (expires 30 April 2027)

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





Fact sheets are available from biosecurity.qld.gov.au. The control methods recommended 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, the department does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

