

# Calopo

*Calopogonium mucunoides*



Native to tropical America, calopo was introduced as a pasture legume but has low palatability. It is an aggressive creeper that can smother supporting vegetation, including cane, and is now a widespread weed of cane fields, roadside banks, edges of rainforest and other disturbed areas.

## Legal requirements

Calopo 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 steps to minimise the 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

An annual creeping vine with stems covered in brownish hairs. Trifoliate leaves, 3–6 cm long, leaflets rounded and densely hairy.

Pea-shaped flowers are pale bluish-purple with yellow-green centres in clusters on stalks arising in leaf axils.



Densely hairy pods are brown, narrow, flattened, constricted between the seeds and about 15 cm long. Each pod contains 5–7 brown or yellow seeds.

## Control

### Manual control

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all roots and stem fragments are removed. Plant pieces should either be bagged and taken to the dump or hung up off the ground to prevent reshooting.

### Herbicide control

There is only one herbicide (glufosinate-ammonium) registered for use on calopo in various agricultural and non-agricultural situations including rights-of-way, commercial, industrial and public land in Queensland.

Off-label use permit 11463 allows other herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, and coastal and adjacent areas.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under this permit (PER11463) you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit [apvma.gov.au](http://apvma.gov.au).

### Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth. These should be re-sprayed.

### 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](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of calopo**

| Situation   | Herbicide  | Rate   | Registration details                              | Comments  |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Commercial and industrial areas, forest plantations, rights-of way and other non-agricultural areas<br>Fence lines in agricultural areas  | Glufosinate-ammonium 200 g/L (e.g. Basta)          | 500 mL per 100 L clean water   | Registered for use                                | Spot spray<br>Note: an eight-week withholding period applies in some situations |
| Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, dunal and coastal areas | Dicamba 200 g/L                                    | 500 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 L water plus wetting agent | APVMA permit PER11463<br>Permit expires 30/6/2023 | Spot spray  |
|   | Dicamba 500 g/L (e.g. Kamba 500)                   | 200 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 L water                    |   |   |
|   | 2,4-D 300 g/L + picloram 75 g/L (e.g. Tordon 75-D) | 1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent                                     |   |   |

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

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](http://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.

