

# Mysore thorn

*Caesalpinia decapetalia*



Native to India and South-East Asia, South-East Asian wait-a-while can invade forest margins and gaps, roadsides and watercourses to form impenetrable thickets. Its trailing branches root where they touch the ground, but the main cause of its spread is when humans, water and animals disperse the large seeds.

## Legal requirements

Mysore thorn 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 animals 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

Mysore thorn is a robust, thorny evergreen shrub 2–4 m high or a climber to 20 m often forming dense thickets.

Its bark is rough at the base of the plant and smoother cream-green above. Stems are prickly and densely covered with tiny, golden hairs. It has dark-green leaves that are paler beneath, bipinnate and up to 300 mm long. Leaflets are 7–18 mm long and arranged in pairs along a prickly rachis. Flowers are white to pale yellow in elongated, erect clusters 10–35 cm long. Brown woody pods are flattened, unsegmented, smooth and have a prominent thorn-like beak.

## Control

### Manual control

Hand-pull or uproot seedlings and saplings. If larger plants are slashed or cut down they readily coppice, so either dig up the entire rootstock or apply a suitable herbicide to regrowth when it is actively growing (see below).

## Herbicide control

There is only one herbicide registered for use on mysore thorn in various situations in Queensland.

See Table 1 for treatment options.

## Follow-up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any 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](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of mysore thorn**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Associate)	10 g/100 L water plus wetting agent	Spot spray Always and a wetting agent
	Aminopyralid 375 g/kg + metsulfuron-methyl 300 g/kg (Stinger)	20 g/100 L water plus wetting agent	
			20 g/10 L water plus Pulse penetrant (20 mL/10 L)

**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.

