Cumbungi is the most widespread water weed in north Queensland. Infestations of cumbungi interfere with water flow to form swamps, shorten bore drains, reduce water quality, provide breeding places for vermin and mosquitoes, and reduce stock access to water.

**Legal requirements**

Cumbungi 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
There are three species of Cumbungi in Australia. Narrow leaf cumbungi (*Typha domingensis*) and broadleaf cumbungi (*Typha orientalis*) are native species while *Typha latifolia* is an introduced plant native to Europe. Generally the leaves of the introduced cumbungi are about 1 m in length compared to 2–3 m for the native species. All species grow in permanent fresh or brackish water. Leaves grow in bunches from below water level, are flat or slightly rounded and sometimes springy.

Flowering stems grow erect from the middle of the leaf cluster, are round and stiff, and near the top bear two oblong-brown compact masses of small furry flowers. The masses of flowers are sometimes separated by a short length of stem. On maturity the upper mass disperses first, leaving a 10–20 cm dark brown velvety spike.

Habitat and distribution
Cumbungi is found throughout Queensland in stationary or slowly-flowing water up to 2 m deep.

Control
Mechanical control
If accessible, slashing while the seed head is still green provides some control. Repeated slashing is necessary to maintain control as slashing alone will not kill cumbungi.

Herbicide control
Cumbungi should be sprayed when actively growing and before seed is set.

Various herbicides are recommended for different situations (see table for rates and methods).

It is important to consider the intended use of the water before deciding which treatment to use:

Water for household or recreational use
The safest control method, and the only alternative where water is for household or recreational use, is to spray with glyphosate using either low volume or high volume methods. Glyphosate formulations registered for use in aquatic situations should be used where water is present.

As long as care is taken to avoid spraying non-target plants, these methods are safe in any situation. There is no need to withhold stock or change methods of water usage.

The treatment should be repeated annually to ensure that the bullrushes do not reinfest to any great degree. To avoid loss of water quality caused by the dead plants collapsing into the water, it is best to burn the plant above the water surface six weeks after spraying.

Waterways, channels and drains
In waterways, channels and drains where water is not used for household, gardening or recreational purposes, 2,2-DPA (a soluble powder) can be used. This product, however, is not always readily available.

Amitrole-T is also effective and economical for spot spraying in irrigation channels, and can be used when channels are full.

Bore drains and dams
In bore drains and dams, again, where water is not used for household, gardening, or recreational purposes, glyphosate/roundup or diurex WG can be used.

Pasture
Glyphosate or roundup can be used to control cumbungi in pasture situations, however care must be taken as these herbicides will kill pasture grasses and legumes. Use of wiper equipment is recommended.

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.
### Table 1. Herbicides for the control of cumbungi

<table>
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<th>Situation</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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| Waterways, channels and drains                 | Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo, Roundup Biactive) and other formulations registered for use in aquatic situations | 1.3 L/100L  
200 mL/15L  
9 L/ha  
Consult labels for correct rate for other formulations | High volume spray (hand gun/knapsack/boom)  
Consult label for details |
|                                                |                                                | 1 part glyphosate 360 to 2 parts water | Weed wiper  
Consult label for details |
|                                                | 2,2-DPA 740 g/kg (e.g. Dalapon SP Systemic Grasskiller) | 2 kg/100 L  
20 kg/ha | High volume spray (use 2000 L/ha). Channels and drains should be dry of have at most 5–8 cm of water. |
| Irrigation channels: only supply channels and tail drains which are lockable or which lead to recirculation dams or settling ponds | Imazapyr 250 g/L (e.g. Unimaz 250 SL, Warrant 250) | 3 L/ha | Restrictions apply  
Read label carefully |
|                                                | Imazapyr 150 g/L + glyphosate 150 g/L (e.g. Arsenal Express) | 5 L/ha | |
| Bore drains                                    | Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo, Roundup Biactive) and other formulations registered for use in aquatic situations | 1.3 L/100L  
200 mL/15L  
9 L/ha  
Consult label for correct rate for other formulations | High volume spray (hand gun/knapsack/boom)  
Consult label for details Easier to use. Can use for household and recreational water. |
|                                                |                                                | 1 part glyphosate 360 to 2 parts water | Weed wiper  
Consult label for details |
| Irrigation channels                            | Amitrole 250 g/L+/ Ammonium Thiocyanate 220 g/L (e.g. Amitrole-T) | 2.3 L/100 L | Apply during flowering period between January and May. Effective and economical for spot spraying. |
| Pasture                                        | Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup) and other formulations | 1.3 L/100 L  
200 mL/15L  
9 L/ha  
Consult label for correct rate for other formulations | High volume spray (hand gun/knapsack/boom). Consult label for details. Will kill pasture grasses and legumes. Use of wiper application recommended for direct application to weed. |
|                                                |                                                | 1 part glyphosate 360 to 2 parts water | Weed wiper  
Consult label for details |

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 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.

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