Native to Tropical Americas, hairy senna was probably introduced as an ornamental and was first recorded in Queensland in 1959. The plant readily invades disturbed areas such as roadsides, fence lines, creek banks, grazed pastures and the edges of rainforest.

**Legal requirements**

Hairy senna 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 steps to minimise the 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.

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 certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.
**Description**
Perennial shrub to 3 m high. Single or multi-stemmed, becoming woody with age.

Pinnate leaves with 2–6 pairs of hairy leaflets 4–9 cm long. Ribbed leaf stalk has a prominent conical gland at the base.

Yellow flowers are clustered in groups of 5–8 on the upper branches. Hairy, cylindrical pods 10–14 cm long each contain 50–90 round dull seeds.

**Life cycle**
Flowering occurs during autumn and early winter. Germination requires adequate warmth and moisture over 24°C.

**Methods of spread**
The seeds are probably dispersed by water and animals that eat the fruit. They may also be spread as a contaminant of agricultural produce or in mud sticking to animals, footwear, machinery and vehicles.

**Habitat and distribution**
Native to southern USA (i.e. New Mexico and southern Arizona), Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and tropical and sub-tropical South America.

Also naturalised on several Pacific islands (i.e. the Galapagos Islands, Fiji and New Caledonia).

A potential weed of disturbed sites, waste areas, roadsides, waterways, plantation crops, forest margins, open woodlands, pastures, grasslands and coastal environs in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

Hairy senna occurs along roadsides, in disturbed areas, pastures, waterways and waste areas.

**Control**
Managing hairy senna
The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by hairy senna. This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling hairy senna.

**Manual control**
Hand pull seedlings and small plants when the soil is wet. If plants are cut down, the stump must be immediately treated with a suitable herbicide as the shrub will otherwise reshoot. Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

**Herbicide control**
There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of hairy senna in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control hairy senna as an environmental weed in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations 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.

**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.

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**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of hairy senna**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration status</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Triclopyr 300 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L (e.g Conqueror) or Triclopyr 300 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (e.g Grazon Extra)</td>
<td>350 mL to 500 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 (Permit expires 30/06/2023)</td>
<td>Spot spray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (e.g Access)</td>
<td>1 L per 60 L diesel</td>
<td>Cut stump or basal bark spray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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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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