Horehound is native to tropical South America and is extensively naturalised in northern Queensland. It is common along roadsides and in cultivated paddocks and overgrazed areas; however, it is not a weed of rainforest interiors as it requires light to germinate.

Seeds provide the only means of spread and are primarily spread by animals, machinery and other vehicles, and contaminated hay.

**Legal requirements**

Horehound 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 and animals under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals 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**

Annual, erect herb to 1.5 m with hairy, four-angled stems that are hairy on upper parts.

Opposite leaves are dull green, stalked, slightly toothed and heart-shaped—pointed at the tip and rounded at the base with an undersurface that is densely hairy. Leaves have a strong mint smell when crushed.
Flowers are small, purple-mauve, about 5 mm long and usually arranged in clusters in the forks of the upper leaves of the plant.

Fruit is a lobed two-sectioned burr, each with two small, dark brown, shield-shaped seeds.

**Control**

**Manual control**

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations in bushland. Hand pull prior to seeding when the soil is wet. Collect heads into bags for disposal at the dump.

**Herbicide control**

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of horehound in Queensland; however, an off-label use permit allows the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland and forests.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spot spray (young plants)</td>
<td>2,4-D 500 g/L</td>
<td>4 ml per 1 L water</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot spray (old plants)</td>
<td>2,4-D 300 g/L + picloram 75 g/L</td>
<td>1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent</td>
<td>Permit expires 30/06/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Follow up**

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