

Bitter weed could be in your area Call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 if you see this pest



Bitter weed (*Helenium amarum*)

- Bitter weed is an annual plant that grows up to 60 cm high with daisy-like yellow flowers.
- Can be poisonous to livestock.
- Plants produce seeds within eight weeks after germination
- Not known to be established outside the Mt Tarampa area.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland's agricultural industries and natural environment.

Description

Bitter weed is a summer growing annual herb up to 60 cm tall, native to North and Central America. The leaves are narrow, less than 2 mm wide and less than 3 cm long, sometimes appearing thread-like. Leaves are numerous, arranged alternately along the stems. Flowers are yellow, daisy-like and 2 cm across with eight wedge-shaped yellow rays that each have three lobed tips. Seeds are 1 mm long, reddish brown, hairy along the edges and wedge-shaped. Bitter weed can be compact and bushy under favourable conditions. It can also remain unnoticed when competing with other plants, producing a single flower on plants as small as 5 cm tall.

Bitter weed can be confused with several co-occurring native and introduced species that also have yellow rays, in particular *Senecio* species (native and introduced) which have more numerous strap-like rays; *Schkuhria pinnata* (introduced) which has smaller flower heads and rays but similar leaves; and *Coreopsis lanceolata* (introduced) which has similar but larger flower heads and wider leaves.

Declaration details

Bitter weed is not a declared pest plant under Queensland legislation.

What should I do?

Biosecurity Queensland encourages people to report this pest plant and to take actions to help stop the establishment, prevent the spread, and to control this pest.

If you have seen bitter weed, please contact your local government officer or Biosecurity Queensland.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

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