

Leucaena

Leucaena leucocephala



Established stands of leucaena form dense thickets, hindering the movement of wildlife and excluding all other plants. These thickets can also decrease visibility along roadsides. Leucaena has been planted for fodder in many tropical areas of the world, including Queensland where an introduced stomach bug prevents ruminant problems, but horses lose hair if too much is eaten. Leucaena is also used for shade, firewood and as a soil stabiliser. Unless it is heavily grazed or otherwise controlled, it is able to rapidly spread to adjacent areas.

Native to Central and South America, leucaena is also listed as a weed in New Guinea, Hawaii, western Polynesia and the United States. Leucaena has naturalised

throughout many areas of the Australian mainland and on a number of off-shore islands. Leucaena has been seen to invade many disturbed sites and creek lines and may have suppressed the regeneration of native species.

Legal requirements

Leucaena 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

Leucaena is a shrub growing up to about 6 m high. Leaves are about 25 cm long and bipinnate, with dull, greyish-green leaflets. Flower heads are spherical and creamy yellow in colour on short stalks about 5 cm long. Flattened pods up to 15 cm long occur in dense clusters, each pod containing around 20 flat glossy-brown seeds that scatter when ripe.

Control

Small individual plants may be manually removed, taking care to remove the roots. Controlled grazing before it grows out of cattle's reach controls it. On larger specimens or infestations, this option will probably not be feasible.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of leucaena

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, fence lines, forestry, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access®)	1 L per 60 L diesel	Registered	Basal bark (for plants with stem diameter <5 cm)
				Registered Cut stump method Plants up to and in excess of basal bark size
Non-crop areas including native vegetation, conservation areas, gullies, reserves and parks	Picloram 47.7 g/L + aminopyralid 4.47 g/L (e.g. Vigilant II)	Apply a layer of product 3–5 mm thick over cut surface		Cut stems no higher than 10 cm above ground level. Stems greater than 20 mm in diameter, apply 5 mm thick. In multi-stem plants treat at least 80% of stems including all main stems.
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	Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L (e.g. Conqueror) or Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L + aminopyralis 8 g/L (Grazon Extra)	350 mL/100 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 (Permit expires 30/06/2023)	Foliar spray, seedlings only A permit is required for Shires of Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Pine Rivers because of environmental concerns with picloram

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of leucaena in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control leucaena 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.

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.