

# Knobweed

*Hyptis capitata*



Photos courtesy Colin Wilson

A native of Central America, knobweed grows in disturbed areas in full sunlight on heavy soils retaining above average moisture.

It usually occurs as a common weed of roadsides, creek banks, cultivated headlands and run-down pastures. It is not generally a weed of rainforest as it requires light to germinate.

Spread is mainly by seed adhering to animals, people and vehicles. Seed is also dispersed via water.

## Legal requirements

Knobweed 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

An erect, aromatic, robust herb with several quadrangular branching stems 60–250 cm high.

Leaves are bright green, opposite and widely spaced on stems. They grow up to 12 cm long and 5 cm wide, taper at both ends and have margins irregularly toothed.

Small, white flowers appear in compact globular heads about 1.5 cm diameter on stalks to 5 cm long in leaf axils.

Fruit is a four-lobed capsule dividing into four seed-like nutlets which, when ripe, rattle when the plant is shaken.



## Control

### Manual control

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations in bushland, taking care to remove all rootstock. Any seedheads should be collected and burnt on site. Larger colonies can be slashed before flowering. Treat the young regrowth treated with a suitable herbicide.

### Herbicide control

2,4-D amine is the active ingredient of herbicides registered for the control of knobweed in Queensland.

## 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 [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of knobweed**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Pastures, rights-of-way, industrial	2,4-D 625 g/L (e.g Ken-Amine 625)	320 mL/100L water	Spot spray young, actively growing weeds ensuring thorough coverage
	2,4-D 700 g/L (e.g. Amicide Advance 700)	285 mL/100L water	

Note: The listed 2,4-D formulations are examples only. Other formulations are available. Check the label for the correct rate and critical comments.

**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](http://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.