

# Leucaena

*Leucaena leucocephala*



Established stands of leucaena form dense thickets, hindering the movement of wildlife and excluding all other plants. 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 of America. 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.



## Declaration details

Leucaena is not declared under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

## Description and general information

Leucaena is a small tree up to about 6 m tall. 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 glossy brown, flat 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 cattles' reach controls it. On larger specimens or infestations, this option will probably not be feasible.

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



**Table 1. Herbicides registered for the control of leucaena**

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status
Basal bark	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L) e.g. Access®	1 L per 60 L diesel (for plants with stem diameter <5 cm)	Registered
Cut and paint	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L per 60 L diesel	Registered
Foilar spray	triclopyr (300 g/L) and picloram (120 g/L) e.g. Grazon DS®	350 mL per 100 L water	Registered A DAFF permit is required for Shires of Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Pine Rivers because of environmental concerns with picloram.

**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, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.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, DAFF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.