

Hairy senna

Senna hirsuta



Native to Tropical Americas, hairy senna was probably introduced as an ornamental and was first recorded in Queensland in 1959. The plant readily invades disturbed areas such as roadsides, fence lines, creek banks, grazed pastures and the edges of rainforest.

Legal requirements

Hairy senna is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). This fact sheet gives examples of how you can meet your GBO.

At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on hairy senna. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Perennial shrub up to 3 m high. Single or multi-stemmed, becoming woody with age. Pinnate leaves with 2–6 pairs of hairy leaflets 4–9 cm long. Ribbed leaf stalk has a prominent conical gland at the base.

Yellow flowers are clustered in groups of 5–8 on the upper branches. Hairy, cylindrical pods 10–14 cm long each contain 50–90 round dull seeds.



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Life cycle

Flowering occurs during autumn and early winter. Germination requires adequate warmth (over 24°C) and moisture.

Methods of spread

The seeds are probably dispersed by water and animals that eat the fruit. They may also be spread as a contaminant of agricultural produce or in mud sticking to animals, footwear, machinery and vehicles.

Habitat and distribution

Native to southern USA (i.e. New Mexico and southern Arizona), Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and tropical and sub-tropical South America.

Also naturalised on several Pacific islands (i.e. the Galapagos Islands, Fiji and New Caledonia).

A potential weed of disturbed sites, waste areas, roadsides, waterways, plantation crops, forest margins, open woodlands, pastures, grasslands and coastal environs in tropical and sub-tropical regions

Hairy senna occurs along roadsides, in disturbed areas, pastures, waterways and waste areas.

Has a scattered distribution in north-eastern Australia. It is mostly found in the coastal districts of northern and central Queensland but has also been recorded in southern Queensland.

Control

Managing hairy senna

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks posed by hairy senna. This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling hairy senna.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of hairy senna

| Method | Herbicide | Rate | Registration details | Comments |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 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 + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (e.g Grazon Extra) | 350 mL to 500 mL per 100 L water | APVMA permit PER11463 (Permit expires 30/04/2027) | Spot spraying where residual weed control is required. Add a wetting agent or spray oil according to label instructions |
| | Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (e.g Access) | 250 mL per 15 L in diesel or other suitable carrier as per product label general instructions | | Paint stump immediately after cutting or spray basal bark |

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

Fact sheets are available from biosecurity.qld.gov.au. The control methods recommended 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, the department does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.



Manual control

Hand pull seedlings and small plants when the soil is wet. If plants are cut down, the stump must be immediately treated with a suitable herbicide as the shrub will otherwise reshoot. Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of hairy senna in Queensland. However, a permit allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control hairy senna as an invasive plant 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.

Landholders and contractors should check if the property is in a hazardous area as defined in the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966* prior to spraying herbicides containing picloram.

More information

For more information contact your local government or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.